







## Their lordships' silence speaks louder than words

The House of Lords is another country. They do things differently there. And the first thing to remember is that peers do not have to speak; they are not standing for election, there is nobody they have to please and nobody pays them wages for their work. Nothing stops a noble lord or lady from going in just to keep a silent vigil. For the only thing a duke, viscount or baron really cares about is the judgment of his peers.

On sensitive issues it is often less interesting to know what was said, or by whom, than to note who remained silent: which peers did not bark?

Yesterday, their lordships considered the housing and urban development bill. Among its provisions is a measure giving private leasehold tenants a right to buy the freehold (wherever two-thirds or more wish to do so) whether or not the freehold landlord wants to sell.

It will please tens of thousands of leaseholders in inner London, many of them floating voters. It fulfils a pledge made in the Tories' recent election manifesto which was popular in marginal constituencies such as Westminster North (Sir John Wheeler, C, maj 3,733) and Kensington (Dudley Fishburn, C, maj 3,548).

Let us not mince words. The measure should properly be entitled the Kensington and Westminster North (election rescue) bill, 1992. It worked. Leaseholders there are delighted. Freehold landlords are not.

One of these landlords owns 300 acres of Mayfair and Belgrave, worth an estimated £3 billion. Another has 100 acres in Chelsea, worth £400 million. Yet another's 150 acres of St Marylebone are also valued at £400 million. I have no estimate of the value of Harley Street, part of

another single freeholding. The Duke of Westminster and Lords Cadogan, Portman and Howard de Walden will pay dear for the election effort in two Tory marginals in April 1992.

These four noble dogs remained silent yesterday, not so much as a whimper. The Duke of Westminster, instantly recognisable by his Groucho Marx eyebrows, could be seen standing by the Throoe, a silent, brooding presence, arms akimbo. How much, per word, could the offending clause of this bill cost him? £1 million? £5 million? Come the committee stage, friends who understand his grace's plight may well have amendments to propose. But his grace himself — we may guess — will remain, arms akimbo, by the Throne, silent.

Over in the Commons, sound and fury, not silence, is the way they do it. Concerned that John Smith is doing it better, the prime minister yesterday accused the Leader of the Opposition of "sound-bite politics." Mr Major offered an example of non-sound-bite politics, summing up his concern for the jobless in this ringing phrase: "I categorically don't fail to understand the problem of the unemployed" — a sort of sound-bite.

David Ashby (C, NW Leicestershire) took his lead, too much to heart in a bid, moments later, to avoid the sound bite. "Er, there are, er, signs of, er, improvement in engineering, er, activity. Er, will he ensure that we do not have, er, increased tax and ensure that capital investment is not in fact subject to, er, er... not so much taxation?" This was a sort of sound gaggle, yielding way to a sound burble and ending in a sound choke. Mr Major congratulated him.

## Reform of police splits cabinet

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke's plans to reform the 43 police forces of England and Wales are being opposed by cabinet colleagues. Some ministers, including Michael Howard and Douglas Hurd, are pressing the home secretary to drop his idea for severing links between police and local authorities.

Mr Clarke is resisting attempts to turn his plans for a radical shake-up into a modest reform that would reduce the number of police forces, with minor changes to membership of police authorities.

He is understood to have considered leaving England and Wales with nine police forces. However, in the preliminary papers he sent to colleagues before Christmas, he had already toned down his plans, which now involve cutting forces from 43 to about 25 by amalgamating many of the smaller shire ones.

Some ministers take issue with Mr Clarke's proposal for nominated local business people to replace councillors on police authorities. Councillors currently hold two-thirds of the seats and magistrates one third. Mr Clarke also wants police costs to be funded directly from Whitehall.

## Major faces US rift on airdrop

Continued from page 1  
port, statements of support. They then said any material assistance, for example transport planes for relief supplies, you may have in mind would be very welcome. That's not quite the same as saying "We want your aircraft now."

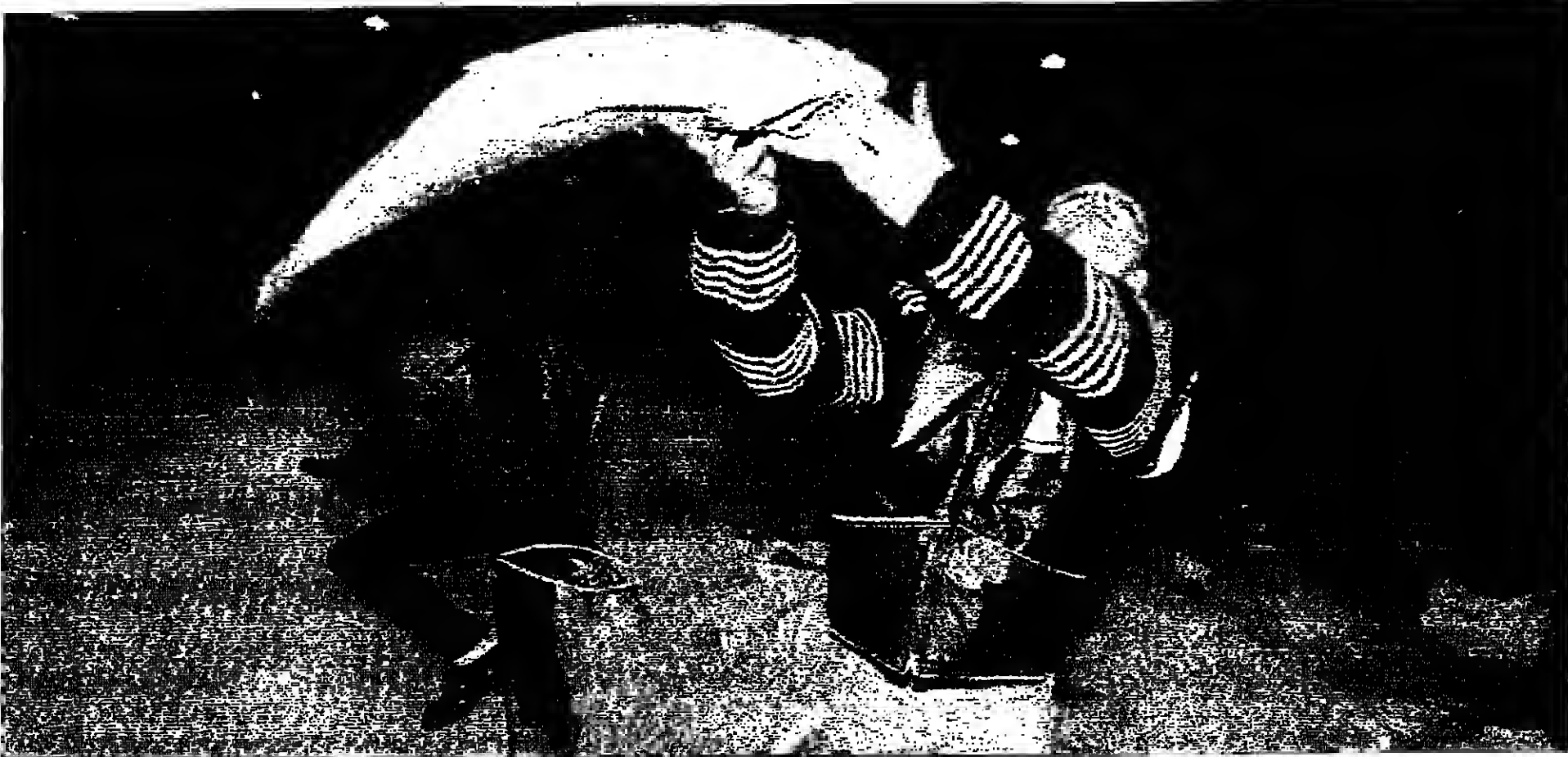
In the Commons, Mr Hurd also rebuked sections of the American media for their "ignorance" of the efforts being made by Britain and other EC countries in bringing aid to the region.

In Washington, the administration said it would not act unilaterally though it was reluctant to cede operational command to the UN. It believed it already had the UN authorisation it needed. Officials said the operation would not only help Bosnian Muslims, but by demonstrating concrete US support could encourage the Bosnian Muslim government to return to the negotiating table.

The airdrop would be conducted from Italy, possibly with protection from naval warplanes on the aircraft carrier USS John F Kennedy in the Adriatic. One option being considered is to put US troops on the ground to prepare drop zones.

Airlift plans, page 13

## Trawlermen destroy 800 tonnes of fish as protest heads south



Flying fish: a French fisherman hurries a fish at riot police yesterday when demonstrators invaded the Rungis wholesale food market south of Paris

## Major tells France to bring rioting fishermen to book

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AND SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH

■ The prime minister says that France will be expected to pay compensation for losses caused by rioting fishermen

BRITAIN warned France yesterday that rioting French trawlermen must not be allowed to disrupt free trade. The message from John Major came after further violence when French fishermen destroyed 800 tonnes of fish worth £2.8 million, including a consignment from Britain.

Responding to questions in the Commons, Mr Major said: "We will continue to leave the French government in no doubt that we expect them to act when necessary to safeguard free trade, to pay compensation when losses have occurred and to bring the perpetrators to book."

Nearly 1,000 fishermen, mostly from Brittany, ran amok yesterday in the Rungis wholesale food market south of Paris. After smashing stalls and emptying hundreds of boxes of fish on to the floor, they destroyed word-processors, fax machines and furniture in nearby offices. Riot police, who had stood by for two hours, were pelted with

rotting fish when they eventually intervened.

Scott Prime Sea Foods, of Ayr, Strathclyde, said it had lost fish worth £10,000. Tom Graham, a sales executive, said: "About one tonne of monkfish tails and scallop meat was being held in transit in the market en route to Germany."

The fishermen say their incomes have been halved by plummeting prices caused by cheap imports from Britain, Russia, Norway and South America. However, sources in Britain said cut-throat competition vessels for limited catch quotas, the vagaries of the weather and a long-term decline in demand, rather than cheap imports from outside the EC, were the main cause of the slump in prices.

After several years of shortage, caused by dwindling stocks of cod, haddock and

other white fish in the North Sea, there is a sudden glut. Prices have fallen by 15 to 30 per cent throughout the Community. In ports on Humber, Mersey and northeast Scotland, cod is selling for £1,000 a tonne, down from £1,800 a year ago.

Bad weather kept the British fleet in port for most of January. Many boats, particularly in Scotland, had been tied up for the last two months of last year because they had exhausted annual quotas allocated by the EC.

When the weather cleared, there was a "dash for fish" early this month. Eagerness to make up for lost fishing time was all the greater because evidence of stock recovery had enabled the EC to offer bigger quotas than last year.

Lower worldwide prices are good news for consumers. Sainsbury is selling cod filets

at £2.99 a pound, down from £3.18 in mid-January, and haddock is down from £3.38 a pound to £3.28. Sainsbury said that although there was a lot of fish available, much of it was in poor condition. "Boat crews are catching so much fish that they are not gutting and chilling it quickly enough," a spokesman said.

□ The millions of farmed salmon contaminated by the Braer oil spill may be destroyed in the next two to three weeks, according to a spokesman for the Shetland Salmon Farmers (Gillian Bowditch writes). The farmers are close to agreeing a sum of about £10 million with the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund for the fish.

The agreement on the 1991 class of fish in the enclosure zone, which are due for harvesting in the next few months, will allow farmers to clear the fish. Negotiations on last year's fish will continue. It is feared that up to 2.5 million salmon will eventually have to be destroyed. The most likely scheme would be to turn them into fish meal or silage.

## Shop gunmen kill innocent bystander

By LOUISE HIDALGO

A BARRISTER'S clerk who died yesterday after being shot by two masked youths raiding a west London newsagent's was a "truly good man" who would be sorely missed, his colleagues said.

Officers hunting the killers of Hema Bandaratilleke, 32, a Sri Lankan, yesterday described the shooting as "senseless and seemingly without motive".

Mr Bandaratilleke died in hospital early yesterday morning after being shot in the stomach with a sawn-off shotgun when the two raiders, one aged 16, burst into the Hamersmith shop, where he was helping a friend with a legal problem, and demanded the contents of the till.

Donald Currie, a fellow clerk at Chancery Lane, where Mr Bandaratilleke worked, described him as "a truly good man who would not think badly of anyone. He was a deeply religious person who would not deny anyone anything." Mr Bandaratilleke, a



Bandaratilleke: shot in newsagent's shop

member of a wealthy Sri Lankan family who came to London in 1974 and was known by his family name of Nath Wanasinghe, had been working for a barrister in his chambers in Chancery Lane.

It is thought he was shot after asking the raiders to return his electronic organiser, which contained telephone numbers and addresses needed for his work. He was taken to Charing Cross hospital but died during surgery.

## NHS plans league table of hospitals

Continued from page 1

that the 14 regional health authorities are to be retained in a slimmed-down form to regulate the market. Abolition of the regions had become a litmus test of government support for a free market in healthcare.

Kenneth Clarke and William Waldegrave, both former health secretaries, are among several ministers who argued in cabinet that the regions were unnecessary and wasteful bureaucracies. Managers of trust hospitals, which have broken free of district health authority control, have accused the regions of too much interference in their affairs.

However, Virginia Bottomley said in her speech it was essential that the health authority purchasers should be in control of the market. "They pay the piper. They should call the tune," she said. Trust hospitals, which attract the cream of NHS managers, could end up driving the market. Retaining the regions was essential to maintain a strategic overview and "ensure

a comprehensive range of services."

However, the reprieve for the regions, to be scaled down from an average 560 staff to a maximum of 200, will last only until the reforms have been fully implemented, Mrs Bottomley said. Their long-term future is to be decided by a further review. Labour accused her of "dithering, muddle and fudge".

Sir Duncan said the six indicators to be tried out first would be waiting times for inpatient admission, waiting times in out-patients, speed of initial assessment in accident and emergency departments, number of cancelled operations, amount of day surgery and ambulance response times.

The health department is also to set targets for waiting times to first outpatient appointment. In line with the pledge in the Patients' Charter, Regions have been asked to submit proposals by April and the first targets, which will vary from region to region, will be fixed later this year.

## Report says closed pits were viable

Two of the ten pits already closed by British Coal could be viable and did not meet the corporation's criteria for closure, according to a draft report compiled by John T. Boyd, American mining consultants, for the government. Production at two other pits might also make sense if more appropriate working methods were used, the report found.

The study, sent to British Coal and mining unions for comment, provoked renewed criticism of British Coal's plans to close 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs. Its findings will also complicate efforts by ministers to save some of the pits, which are to be finalised at a cabinet meeting on March 4. The trade and industry department last night emphasised that the report was a draft.

Boyd concluded that Grimethorpe colliery in South Yorkshire had been profitable. Taff Merthyr colliery in Mid Glamorgan would have been viable until the existing faces were exhausted.

## Junior 'jails' approved

Kenneth Clarke yesterday won cabinet approval for his plans to tackle persistent young offenders by creating a small network of approved school-style units. A number of companies, including Group 4 and UK Detentions Services, signalled that they would be interested in running a network of five units holding 40 persistent offenders. A spokesman for Bazardro's, one of the voluntary organisations whose expertise Mr Clarke would like to use in operating the centres, said: "We would be prepared to make a contribution provided the aim is truly rehabilitative. What we are not prepared to do is become part of a regime that exists to punish young people."

## Queen to visit Lockerbie

The Queen is to visit Lockerbie for the first time since the Pan Am air disaster of December 1988. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will spend a short time in the town on June 30. No details have been announced but townspeople believe she may pay her respects at the memorial at Dryfessdale Cemetery to the 270 who died in the bombing. She may also see Sherwood Crescent where 11 residents were killed. In the aftermath of the disaster there was criticism that the Queen did not visit the town, although the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York and Baroness Thatcher, then prime minister, did visit. The Queen is also to open new police headquarters in Dumfries on June 30.

## Webber to display art

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber may open his country estate, Sydmore Court near Newbury, Berkshire, to make his art collection accessible to the public. The composer's collection, built up over 30 years, is recognised as one of the country's most important private holdings of Victorian art. "The whole collection has been a major part of my life. I like to be able to show pictures that I have loved," he said yesterday. Over the past two years, Sir Andrew has spent an estimated £20 million on art purchases.

## Gemma stays in care

Gemma Gibson, the 11-year-old girl left at home to fend for herself while her mother took a holiday in Spain, will remain a ward of court in local council care, the High Court ruled yesterday. Sir Stephen Brown, president of the Family Division, said that any future arrangements for Gemma would be made in consultation with the Official Solicitor.

## Royal busman's holiday

The Duchess of York, right, has been getting away from it all at home. She has been showing her daughters, Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice, the delights of Torquay, on England's own Riviera. The royal entourage, complete with sister Jane Makin, a nanny and bodyguards, has been taking in the sights in a 15-seater mini-bus hired locally. They are staying for a week in the five-star Imperial Hotel.



## Horse suspect released

A man being questioned by detectives investigating attacks on horses across South England was yesterday released on police bail. The man, aged 18, from Winchester, Hampshire, was arrested earlier in the day and questioned at Alton police station. A police spokesman said that the man was not charged and was released pending further enquiries.

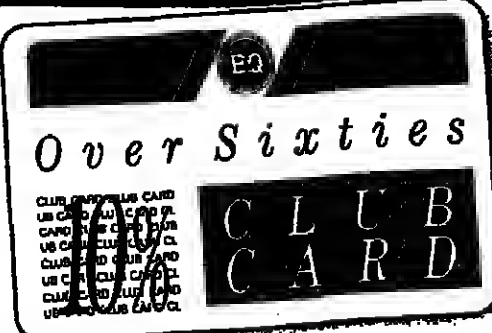
## James's funeral set

The funeral of James Bulger is to take place on Monday, after it was decided to release his body to the family. Lawyers representing the two ten-year-old boys accused of murdering James waived their right to an independent post-mortem. A "walk of witness" in memory of James has been scrapped amid fears that it might be too rowdy.

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# Holloway principal defends decision to dispose of Victorian benefactor's treasures

## College in Turner row vows to sell more from its collection

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND  
ART MARKET  
CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY college, widely condemned by the art world yesterday for selling a Turner seascape to America for £11 million, plans to continue with the sale of other paintings in its collection.

Royal Holloway College, part of the University of London, intends to sell off works by Constable and Gainsborough for up to £13 million. All the paintings had been left by Thomas Holloway, the college's benefactor and a 19th century philanthropist.

Hugh Bailey, director of the Gainsborough Museum, said of the Turner sale to the Getty Museum: "Everyone in the museum world is very shocked about it. The universities are thinking of these pictures as real estate. It is the thin end of the wedge."

David White, a spokesman for the college, confirmed future sell-off plans. "We have been letting the art world know the pictures are available," he said. The college wants to raise money for proposed maintenance of the Grade I listed building in Egham, Surrey.

Following the sale of

Art experts are dismayed at the prospect of more masterpieces being exported after the sale of a Turner

Turner's *Van Tromp Going About to Please His Masters*, setting a record price for a British painter, the college is selling a Gainsborough landscape *Peasants Going To Market, Early Morning*. A similar painting fetched £750,000 at auction recently and was then sold on by a dealer for £1.5 million. The college is thought to be hoping for £3 million for the painting, a price deemed by experts as too ambitious.

But much more valuable is the *Sketch For A View Of The Stour, Near Dedham* by Constable, which on value can be compared with his painting *The Lock*, which fetched more than £10 million at auction two years ago.

If successful with these further sales, the college could amass an endowment fund of more than £20 million, which would earn about £2 million interest a year for the maintenance programme.

Detractors from within the college, however, complain that the state of the building is not desperate and that the

money will be spent on turning the historic building into "a motorway hotel" for summer vacation conferences. Furthermore, when the government sees the college using the collection to raise funds, they said, grants could be cut.

Thomas Holloway, having made a fortune from his famous patent medicines, turned in the 1880s to philanthropy, setting up a ladies' college in his name. Once complete, Holloway endowed his building with 79 paintings with which his students could further improve their minds.

Paying outlandish prices, he acquired some of the most famous images of the period, such as *The Princes In The Tower* by John Everett Millais, William Powell Frith's *The Railway Station* and Edwin Landseer's *God's Promise, Man Disposes*, in which two bears tear apart the remains of a Polar expedition.

The collection has been displayed since Holloway's days in the high-vaulted hall in which the students take their examinations. In justifying his actions, Professor Norman Gower, the college principal, says that the "purchase of the picture collection by Thomas Holloway was secondary to his primary purpose of establishing a university college. This was fundamental to the decision of the Charity Commissioners to grant a scheme to permit the sale."

The college authorities argue that Holloway intended the pictures as decoration and therefore their sale is of minor significance.

The only clue as to the founder's intention is a final legal deed written a few weeks before his death in 1883, in which he wrote that the pictures were for the "benefit of those persons entitled to reside therein".



To market: this Gainsborough could fetch £3m



Unmoved: Norman Gower wants to raise £20 million for college repairs

## Sale could deter bequests

BY OUR ART MARKET  
CORRESPONDENT

FUTURE university benefactors may be deterred by Royal Holloway College's decision to sell abroad the Turner painting, which was gifted by Sir Thomas Holloway.

Peter Longman, of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said yesterday: "It is a most unfortunate precedent. There are a number of people thinking of making bequests who are worried." Christopher White, director of the Ashmolean museum in Oxford, said: "Ultimately, every university is free to dispose of things."

Although the commission has gone to great lengths to protect the interests of benefactors to museums by requiring its members to sign documents undertaking to respect their terms in order to obtain grants, there is always a way round for those determined to sell.

As they have not applied for museum registration, university collections such as those at Royal Holloway College and Edinburgh University are not subject to such restrictions.

One of the problems is that, during the heyday of philanthropy in the 19th century, it never crossed benefactors' minds that their gifts would come to be seen as investments and that such investment might be required. As a result, their stipulations were often vague.

Mr Longman said: "We have been in touch with our lawyers. There is no overall solution. The government could decide to create some act of parliament to put a safeguard on all registered collections. But it would be a fairly draconian thing to do."

Two years ago the Ashmolean museum could have been tempted to sell some of its exhibits due to a desperate shortfall in funds, but, Dr White said: "There was no question of selling." He added that when the principal of Royal Holloway College said he needed the money "for education rather than art" he had clearly forgotten one of art's most vital functions.

## London is smuggling capital of art world

BY ALISON ROBERTS  
ARTS REPORTER

LONDON has become the main international receiving centre for smuggled art, with up to 600 British dealers believed to have handled smuggled treasures knowingly, according to a report based on figures from Interpol.

Smugglers have been drawn to the capital by fewer export and import restrictions, while its international reputation as one of the world's most important art marketplaces ensures buyers.

Much of the stolen art comes from Eastern Europe, frequently taken across borders by owners who contravene stringent heritage export laws imposed by many countries. In Italy and Greece, for example, it is virtually impossible to export art. But once objects arrive in London, they are difficult to trace and a different history is easy to concoct.

Official figures put the number of London art dealers at 2,400. Brett Gory, an expert on art theft, said that most British dealers have sold smuggled art and many turn a blind eye to it. "You are not going to stop smuggling because it is so rife and so easy," he said.

The report, published in next month's *The Antique Collector*, quotes Monsieur Blanc, a veteran smuggler, who claims that couriers are often ex-policemen, and routes can even be arranged through some Italian banks. Art theft and smuggling is extremely lucrative, third only to drugs and arms dealing.

Philip Saunders, managing director of *Trace* magazine, which tracks art theft, said that art smuggling was sometimes linked to drug smuggling or money laundering. But he said that it was extremely difficult to prosecute dealers who took stolen or smuggled art from criminals. "It is very easy for them to deny that they knew where an object came from and there is very rarely any proof," he said.

Marcus Linell, a senior director at Sotheby's, said that the Interpol figures were surprising. "I can imagine that dealers could become involved unwittingly, but not many would risk their reputation by just turning a blind eye."

## 'Caller ran up 34-page phone bill'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A COMPUTER hacker tapped into his mother's telephone line after she banned him from making calls, a court was told yesterday.

Paul Bedworth, 19, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, ran a wire under his bedroom carpet and soldered it to the telephone terminal so he could dial into networks, Southwark Crown Court was told. James Richardson, for the prosecution, said Mr Bedworth hacked into networks at Lloyds Bank, the EC headquarters in Luxembourg, the *Financial Times*, medical organisations and universities.

His activity became so intense he was unable to pay for his line and BT cut him off, the jury was told. He then used his mother's line. In two months before he was arrested two years ago, he ran up a bill that filled 34 pages. The court was told that he boasted of ripping off BT.

Mr Richardson said Mr Bedworth, who used a £200 BBC microcomputer given to him when he was 14, was caught when Leeds University set up a data line monitor.

Mr Bedworth denies conspiracy to obtain telecommunications services dishonestly and unauthorised access of computer material.

Karl Strickland, 22, of Liverpool, and Neil Woods, 26, of Oldham, admit conspiracy to dishonestly obtain telecommunications services and unauthorised access of computer material. They will be sentenced later. The trial continues today.



Bedworth: banned from making calls

## Lawyer denies murdering wife with lump hammer

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SOLICITOR clubbed his student nurse wife to death with a lump hammer so he could get a £120,000 insurance payout and be free to pursue his passion for a young law student, a court was told yesterday.

Warren Green, 27, who was a Scout master, hit his wife Julie, a Guides leader, at least 16 times with the hammer, fracturing her skull and causing brain damage from which she quickly died, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

Mr Green then allegedly used his knowledge gained while working as a solicitor for the Crown Prosecution Service to construct a defence.

Michael Kalisher QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that Warren and Julie Green had been a happy couple with a successful marriage, but Mr Green was having an affair with one of the couple's

friends, and Mr Green had developed a passion for a law student. The court was also told that Mrs Green's life was insured for £120,000 and that in the event of her death the £80,000 mortgage on the couple's house would be paid.

Mr Kalisher said: "The effect of this was that in the event of Mrs Green's death, unless he could be shown to be responsible, Mr Green would have the mortgage on the house paid off and he would receive the rental income of £7,500 a year. He would receive a cash sum of at least £120,000 and he would be free to pursue his passion for the young law student."

Mr Kalisher told the jury that Julie and Warren Green had been childhood sweethearts and had bought their home in Wigan in November 1988 before their wedding in 1989. He said they had mutual

friends through their involvement with the Scouts and the Guides. In the summer of 1990, Mr Green qualified as a solicitor and was hired by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Kalisher said: "By October 1991, all seemed well with the Greens. They had a home and were both in good jobs which they wanted to do. But all was not well. One of the Greens' close friends was someone called Stewart Skett, who became particularly close to Julie. By July, a passionate affair had started, between them."

Mr Kalisher said that Mr Green became suspicious that something was going on and confided in a friend. But, said Mr Kalisher: "In the summer of 1991, this defendant had developed a passion for Julie Warburton, a 20-year-old law student."

The court heard that in July 1991 during a holiday to Corfu with his wife, Mr Green wrote to Ms Warburton, saying: "I can't wait to see you again so you can hunt down the white bits." Mr Kalisher said: "Ms Warburton did not reciprocate the strong feeling that Mr Green clearly had but she did not discourage his advances."

The jury was told that on the morning Mrs Green died, she had just finished an eight-week stretch of night shifts and had returned home early in the morning.

Mr Kalisher alleged that after killing his wife, Mr Green then telephoned her friends and colleagues to see if she was with them, expressing his concern that she was missing.

He then went to ask one of the tenants in the adjoining house if she had seen Julie and then "found" her body in the storeroom, covered in and surrounded by blood.

Mr Kalisher told the jury: "What is clear is that after the murder, Mr Green constructed for himself a bogus defence which he thereafter stuck to through thick and thin. He was assisted no doubt by his skill and knowledge obtained as a solicitor employed as a prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service."

The trial continues today.

## Knifed woman died in husband's arms

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TAXI-DRIVER was stabbed to death in her front garden by a man who was "obsessed and infatuated" with her, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Susan Wheeler, 29, was stabbed in the heart with a 14in knife as she prepared to get into her taxi.

Simon Preece, 25, is accused of murdering her with a single blow. He has pleaded not guilty. Colman Treacy QC, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Wheeler had been stabbed in the heart in the early hours of March 11, 1991.

Mr Treacy told the court

that Mr Preece, who worked for a breakdown recovery company, had got to know the Wheelers because they were all regulars at the Bluebell Pub near the Wheelers' cottage in Hockley Heath, West Midlands.

It is alleged that Mr Preece told police that he was so obsessed with Mrs Wheeler he would drive past the cottage in the middle of the night.

Mr Treacy said: "He became a pest, calling at the cottage at all times and frequently. This led Mr Wheeler to ban him from coming near the cottage."

Mr Treacy said that after the killing, Mr Preece told people that Mrs Wheeler had spoken to him, giving him a mission to find her killer. After Mr Preece had been questioned by police as a witness, he told a barmaid information only the killer could have known, Mr Treacy alleged.

The trial continues today.

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## MP demands independent enquiry

## Staff at council home sacked for abusing mentally handicapped

By NICHOLAS WATT

MENTALLY handicapped young people at a residential home in Southwark, south London, have been subjected to humiliating treatment, which has led to three members of staff being sacked.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, has been urged to set up an independent enquiry after Southwark council concluded that four members of staff undermined the dignity of their charges.

The residents, who were all in their mid-20s, allegedly covered in the presence of some members of staff at the Lordship Lane hostel after they were either kissed, shouted at or locked up. One member of staff had to be prevented from bathing a resident in bleach, and little attempt was made to respect their privacy. Two residents

often used the same bathroom at once, which doubled as a lavatory.

After an enquiry by Labour-controlled Southwark council into the abuses, which happened two years ago, one member of staff was sacked for kissing a resident in an intimate embrace. Two others were sacked, and a fourth is facing disciplinary proceedings.

Police are still investigating the allegations, and have made one arrest, which did not lead to charges.

Tessa Jowell, the Labour MP for Dulwich and a former social worker, said the behaviour of the staff was distressing. She has written to Mrs Bottomley, calling for an independent enquiry into the abuses at the hostel.

"The alleged behaviour is

absolutely disgraceful and unforgivable," Ms Jowell said.

The abuses at Lordship Lane hostel came to light after staff concerned by the conduct of some of their colleagues contacted the Camberwell Advocacy Project, which represents people with learning difficulties.

Carol Auger, the project's deputy co-ordinator, said yesterday: "We were concerned about the serious incidents but we were also worried about the standard of care — the training, management level and support for staff."

Dennis Simpson, Southwark's director of social services, set up the internal management enquiry, which interviewed more than 50 people last summer.

Sтивен Gauge, a Liberal Democrat councillor and member of Southwark's social services committee, who has seen the internal report and has also written to Mrs Bottomley, said yesterday that he was concerned by delays. "There are serious allegations of sexual, physical and emotional abuse at the home over a number of years."

"Although some disciplinary action has been taken, there remain concerns about the way this has been handled. Some of the more serious allegations have not been dealt with and there are signs that the whistle-blowers were not taken seriously."

Lordship Lane hostel will close next month because the council believes the residents should be cared for in smaller units. A spokeswoman for Southwark said the hostel, which was set up in 1975 to cater for 20 young people with learning difficulties, was outmoded. There are now only five residents.

In her letter to Mrs Bottomley, Ms Jowell said the abuses at Lordship Lane Hostel undermined the need for a national action programme for handicapped people. "We need national guidance for staff to make clear what constitutes abuse," he said.



Going to the top: James Robinson, jailed for life in 1978 for the murder of the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater, yesterday mounted a rooftop demonstration at the high-security Gantree Prison in Leicestershire. Robinson, 59, was protesting at the home secretary's refusal to refer his case back to the Court of Appeal. Prison officers were trying to talk him down.

Robinson climbed onto a flat, 20ft high roof yesterday morning, taking food, drink and blankets with him, and then climbed a further 15ft on

to a pitched roof, on which he painted slogans.

He told his wife Theresa, who visited him at the weekend, that the decision earlier this month by Kenneth Clarke had forced him to act. He told her he planned to protest "in the only way I can" after attempts by lawyers to have the case reviewed for a second time by the Court of Appeal had got "precisely nowhere".

"It is my way of responding to the unreasonable decision made by Kenneth Clarke. He has forced this

action on me," Robinson said. His wife said yesterday that she did not know how long he planned to stay on the roof. "What worries me is not the food or drink but the cold. He is very thin but mentally he is extraordinarily strong."

The Home Office confirmed that Robinson was on the roof and was "believed to have food, drink and blankets, so he could be planning a long stay". A spokesman said that he was not considered a high-risk prisoner and his access to the roof was not considered a serious breach

of security. Mr Clarke said on February 3 that he had no doubt the convictions of Robinson and the three other men convicted of Carl Bridgewater's murder were safe. He had considered evidence submitted by a solicitor for the three surviving men and from Merseyside police, who had carried out a fifth enquiry into the case.

The boy was 13 when he died after being shot in the head with a sawn-off shotgun when he went to Yew Tree Farm, Stourbridge, West Midlands, and interrupted a burglary.

## Disabled children tell of sex attacks

By JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE abuse of disabled children is going undetected because the public is unwilling to believe that anyone could mistreat a child unable to walk or speak, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children claimed yesterday.

Even where abuse is discovered in a family, disabled children are excluded from the investigation because of the conviction that it could not happen to them. A blind woman, who was sexually abused with her sister as a child, said: "It just didn't occur to anybody to ask me."

Publishing two reports based on personal accounts from children and adults, the society said the abuse of disabled children was a "hidden area". The reports "explode the myth that children with disabilities are safe or immune from abuse", it said.

In one case, a severely disabled eight-year-old boy

who was regularly cared for in a residential home to give his parents a break complained for several months that he did not like being bathed or taken to the toilet by a particular male carer. But his complaints were ignored until he protested that the man had "bitten my willy".

In another case, a girl aged 10, who was unable to speak, made suggestive movements and put out her tongue when kissing goodnight. Investigations revealed she had been abused by her uncle.

Chris Brown, director of the society, said that disabled children had to overcome the barriers of communication and disbelief. "The same things come up again and again: that they have no one to turn to, it is very difficult to explain what is happening and no one believes a disabled child could possibly suffer abuse," he said.

## Minister warns private car clampers

By TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH measures against unauthorised car clamping operators were signalled by the government yesterday.

Some firms demand up to £240 for releasing cars parked without permission on private land when on public roads the fixed fee is £38. A Home Office consultation document said the number of wheelclamping incidents giving cause for concern was rising.

Legislation is being considered which could lead to outlawing wheelclamping on some private land. "In addition, the government is likely

to insist on the statutory licensing of clamp operators and a licensing of land on which they may operate."

Reported incidents involving the so-called "Denver Boot" wheelclamps include immobilising the cars of an entire church congregation, military vehicles, a milk float and an AA breakdown van.

The consultation paper adds: "More disturbingly, there have also been several cases where lone female motorists have been clamped late at night and have had to walk home alone because they did not have the money to pay for the release of the vehicle."

Yesterday's consultation

document does not apply to London, where wheelclamping on public roads is regulated by statute, and excludes Scotland, where the High Court of Justiciary has ruled that wheelclamping on private land amounts to extortion and theft.

Michael Jack, the Home Office junior minister, said: "Over the last year, there has been a significant increase in the number of complaints about wheelclamping on private land."

"The government recognises that some motorists suffer abuse at the hands of wheelclampers. I am particularly concerned about the

threat to personal security where motorists may be stranded without their vehicles late at night or in isolated places."

The consultation paper was welcomed by the motoring organisations. Edmund King, of the RAC, said clamping on unlicensed land should be a criminal offence. That would allow landowners to take action when justified and would "drive cowboy clampers out of business".

Kenneth Faircloth, deputy director general of the AA, said: "The AA believes motorists in Britain have a right to park their cars without being intimidated and."

## Long-lost castle resurfaces

By JOHN YOUNG

THE remains of a twelfth-century castle in Exeter, previously thought to have been destroyed by Victorian engineers, have been uncovered substantially intact on the site of a former reservoir.

Danes Castle is believed to have been built by King Stephen in about 1136 and was later used by Colonel Fairfax in the civil war. However, from 1852 until late last year it was buried under the concrete walls of a reservoir, and only the name survived.

When South West Water decided to demolish and replace the reservoir, it invited on to the site the archaeological field unit of Exeter Museums. A single trench was enough to show that much more of the castle remained than had been suspected, so the water company sponsored a full excavation.

Frances Griffiths, Devon's principal archaeologist, said: "It is far better preserved than anyone would have believed. We know that Stephen built several castles of this kind, but this is probably the most substantial."

Peter Gilles, clean water programme manager for South West Water, said the old reservoir had become unserviceable and had to be replaced. "The Victorians who built it obviously did not care very much about conservation, but fortunately all they did was to slice off the top of the rampart and scatter soil across the interior and the ditch to provide a foundation for the concrete walls. So, unwittingly they preserved the site very effectively."

## Troy dig backs Homer's tale

By NICK NUTTALL

ARCHAEOLOGISTS at the modern-day Troy, in Turkey, have found remains that may indicate that Homer's *Iliad* was less a flight of fiction and more historical fact. The discoveries, which include palaces and cemeteries, indicate that the site supported a bigger city than supposed.

Some scholars have claimed that the Trojan War, said to have happened in 1300 BC, would have been unlikely over a small city. However, the findings, from excavations south of modern Troy, add weight in favour of an epic war as described by Homer and lend support to his other claims, including the cause of the war, the kidnapping of Helen, and the Greeks' use of a wooden horse to end it.

The findings, by Manfred Korfmann, of the University of Tübingen, Germany, will be disclosed this week at a

meeting of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. Brian Rose, an archaeologist at the University of Cincinnati and in the team, said yesterday: "Now we can see there are more details, with respect to the *Iliad*, that seem to be appropriate."

The team has also found evidence that Augustus, the first Roman emperor, had Troy rebuilt after its destruction in the first century BC. The findings have delighted Professor John Luce, an authority on Troy. "I never had doubts," he said.

Belief that Troy was too small to be Homer's Troy arose after excavations in 1871 by Heinrich Schliemann. Professor Luce said: "He [Schliemann] went down too far, through the Homeric level, without recognising it."

"There has always been a tendency in higher scholar-

ship to be highly critical of the Homeric tradition and the strict historians say it is only a bardic tradition. It has been hard to refute them."

For archaeologists to find grander ruins is exciting news of our Mediterranean civilisation (Philip Howard writes). To claim it as evidence that the Trojan War as described by Homer took place is hype.

Herodotus discounted the whole business because no king would fight a war for ten years over a flood.

The best bet by serious scholars is that there was a real war in the first quarter of the 12th century BC between Achaeans and the Trojans, whoever they were. That war may have been over trade, or entry to the neck of the Hellespont, or tribal movements. Its fall-out resonated into the oral poetry that eventually made up the *Iliad*.

## Camera focuses on fleeing muggers

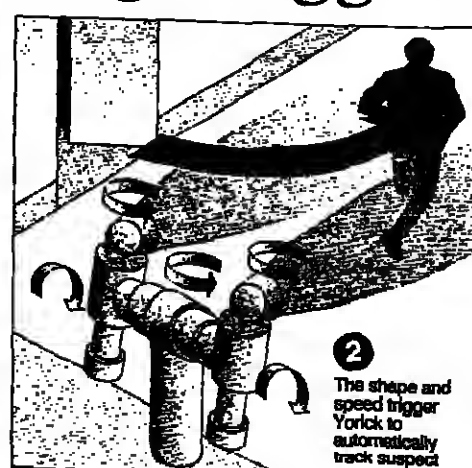
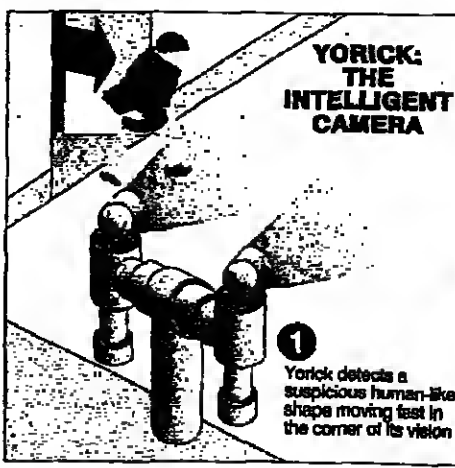
By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A SECURITY camera that will focus on suspicious activity, track a speeding object and recoil if an assailant attacks it has been developed by British engineers.

The automatic device, which has been christened Yorick after the skull in *Hamlet*, could play a key role in improving closed-circuit television systems to improve security at military bases, government offices, shopping centres and private homes.

A video of laboratory tests shows the device tracking a toy train racing round a track. Yorick can keep the train in its centre of focus despite the circuit having unpredictable loops and crossovers that send the locomotive off in a different direction. It can also track the train as it slows down and speeds up and despite people moving around the room.

Yorick is the brainchild of engineers at Oxford University's robotics research group, led by Dr David Murray, who are collaborating with colleagues at GEC Marconi's Hirst research centre. The work, which is attempting to



mimic some of the ways in which human vision operates, is being funded by the science and engineering research council and the EC under its Esprit programme.

Details of Yorick are to be published soon in the journal *Mechatronics* and to be presented at the International Conference on Computer Vision in Berlin in May.

Yorick consists of an electronic brain and two cameras which can be programmed to look for shapes travelling at predetermined speeds. In a secure warehouse or shopping mall, the device can be

tuned to search for people-like shapes appearing in the corner of its sights and running faster than, say, three metres a second. This activity, which might indicate a mugger trying to escape, triggers Yorick into tracking mode.

The device could also be programmed to look for shapes representing a battlefield tank emerging on the horizon or a car arriving at a security fence.

The key to Yorick's abilities is an active vision enabling it to detect movement and calculate how fast an object is going. Vision processing

takes about a tenth of a second, by which time a running person would be towards the edge of the camera and out of focus. Yorick's on-board computer, by calculating where he or she will be fractions of a second ahead, can keep the suspect directly in its sights.

In cases where it might be at risk from a brick of other missile, the device can calculate an approaching object's speed and time of impact, then spin its electronic eyes over its back and flip them inwards for about five seconds before returning to view the scene.

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# Export gangs strip stolen lorries in £30m parts trade

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A BOOMING trade in "cannibalised" lorries, worth more than £30 million a year, is being investigated by Scotland Yard and the National Criminal Intelligence Service. Stolen lorries are broken up and components such as engines, axles and gear boxes are sent to parts dealers. Engines are sold for £2,500 to £15,000, while gear boxes can fetch £3,000. Lorries worth up to £170,000 have been taken and cannibalised, leaving small hauliers in ruins or facing much higher insurance premiums.

The gangs use reconnaissance men and often aim for expensive lorries such as Volvos, Leyland DAFs, Scania and Mercedes. A team of specialists working in a London scrap yard or Home Counties farm can break down a lorry to its component parts in 40 minutes. In one case, thieves removed a gearbox while a lorry was parked overnight.

The gangs supply the domestic spare parts market and have used at least eight ports to supply customers in Ire-

land, eastern and western Europe, South Africa, Malta, Jersey and Australia. Parts have been traced as far afield as Fiji and Afghanistan. The Bedford TK lorry is no longer made, but is widely used in areas such as the Middle East. Police believe thieves are supplying this market with parts from Britain.

In the first six working weeks of this year, the Yard's stolen car squad collected details of more than 50 lorries worth a total of £3.5 million that had vanished from London, the Home Counties, Suffolk, Leicestershire and South Yorkshire; many were Mercedes, taken to capitalise on a scarcity of parts.

Last year, 600 lorries disappeared from around London alone and the Road Haulage Association (RHA) estimates that, nationally, up to 3,500 vehicles may be disappearing to be broken into valuable spare parts. Just before Christmas, police discovered that 12 empty Mercedes refrigerators

lorries, each worth £60,000 to £70,000, had been taken. They suspect the vehicles may have been stolen for Far Eastern clients, broken down, packed in containers and then shipped out.

Det. Chief Insp. Graham Saltmarsh, of the intelligence service's organised crime unit, said: "This is intelligent theft, people who know about using shipping companies, containers. It is just as complex as drugs, but unlike drug dealing they don't have to put up money in advance." Over the past decade, a market had been created and exploited with great success.

According to Det. Sergeant Roger Durrant, who heads a Scotland Yard team specialising in investigating lorry thefts, one of the attractions for the thieves is that the penalties are much lower than those for drug trafficking, but the profits are still high. The public and many police did not realise the value of lorries and the cost of genuine spare parts and labour.

The highly organised gangs use front companies and often appear legitimate. Their activities rebound not only on hauliers but also their customers and the public through increased insurance costs. Some hauliers, the RHA said, have to pay the first £3,500 of any loss before insurance companies will meet the rest of a bill. Commercial Motor, the haulage trade magazine, carries a weekly report of thefts and offers of rewards; one recent report included a £160,000 Volvo.

A theft might start with a call from a haulier to a dealer whom he thinks may have spare parts. The dealer tells a "spotter" that he could have an order and the spotter checks yards and lorry parks. The thief, who receives up to £500 a vehicle, breaks into the yards in the early hours and, in many cases, finds a lorry with full tanks and the keys in an office.

Lorry thieves prefer yards close to motorways. Within an hour or so, they are mingling with the early morning traffic, which is often commercial. The most valuable vehicles may have an escort linked to the thief by mobile telephone; if the lorry is stopped, the escort intervenes to try to distract the police. Cargoes are sold or abandoned; a haul of sugar beet was simply buried.

Once the lorries are broken down, the unwanted parts are put into a container and sold for scrap. Useful parts such as tyres or brake shoes are sold and all identification marks taken off other components. Cabs and other parts are used in some cases to create new vehicles.

## TECHNIQUE UPDATES PHOTOS OF CHILDREN



Computer image: how a girl abducted as a baby might look aged 9, left, and her appearance when found

## Hi-tech pictures reunite families

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A COMPUTERISED machine that can alter a photograph of a toddler into a teenager and then adulthood is to be used in the hunt for Britain's estimated 250,000 missing people.

The machine "ages" old photographs of adults and children who have disappeared to produce an accurate image of how they should look now, and is to be used by the Missing Persons Bureau, which was founded as a telephone helpline four years ago. The machine gives additional hope to many families who give up the search for a relative because they believe the missing person has probably changed beyond recognition.

Mary Asprey, director of the bureau, based in Mortlake, south London, said yesterday: "We have already had four pictures aged for us in America and a couple of them produced a huge response when the posters were put out. There is so much heartbreak caused to families of missing people, but this gives people new hope."

Photographs or video stills

of a person are fed into the machine with photographs of parents, brother and sisters to create an image of how the missing child or adult would look now. It can add grey hair, wrinkles, bags under the eyes and facial flab based on family likenesses.

The computer, which costs £30,000, was developed in the United States by the Wang electronics company for the FBI. It can produce a clear picture from even the fuzziest family snap.

Photo sketch was first employed by the FBI two years ago. It has helped to trace a 14-year-old girl who disappeared when she was four, and has been used successfully to find dozens of other missing people.

Andrew Smith, a technical consultant with Wang, said that because many facial features were hereditary, it was possible to predict how people would change with age. He said: "Things such as mouths drooping, cheekbones narrowing or lips thinning; we can manipulate the whole face."

It takes about two weeks to



Computer image: how a girl abducted as a baby might look aged 9, left, and her appearance when found



Only clue: before the girl was kidnapped, aged 1

produce a picture, he said. "The process is quite similar to the ageing scenes used in Hollywood sci-fi movies or pop videos, but is much quicker."

The photo sketch has already been used in the search for Mark Garvey, who went missing from his home in

Bootle, Liverpool, on March 2, 1987, when he was 15 years old; Lee Boxell, of Cheam, Surrey, who vanished on September 10, 1988, aged 16 on his way to a football match; and Louise Kay, of Polegate, East Sussex, who vanished on June 24, 1988, when she was 17.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Chemicals fire closes main roads

Toxic fumes released after an explosion and fire at a chemicals factory near Wellington, Shropshire, forced the closure overnight of the nearby M54 and A5 because of the danger to motorists.

Firefighters wore gas and chemical protection suits to fight the fire at Cox's Chemicals, set off by the explosion on Monday night.

On Humberstone, police sealed off a 21-mile section of the M62 between junctions 34 and 37 and the M18 at junction 6 after a lorryload of aerosols caught fire.

### Judge praises child witnesses

Simoo Warren, 18, and his sisters Rebecca, 16, Miranda, 12, and Olivia, 8, were praised by a judge at Exeter Crown Court for bringing a burglar to justice.

Judge William Taylor jailed John Adams, 30, for nine months. He broke into their house in Exeter, where the children "swarmed all over him". Adams got away but was recognised by one of the children in the city centre and was subsequently arrested.

### Church tribute

A stained glass window has been placed in the village church at Llanyralon, Gwent, in honour of Corporal David Denbury of the SAS, who was shot behind Iraqi lines during the Gulf war and posthumously awarded the Queen's gallantry medal.

### Sentence delay

Magistrates at Hexham, Northumberland, will wait for psychiatric reports before sentencing Brian McGregor, 24, from Stirling, whose forged football coupon lined him up to collect potential winnings of £3,826.47 billion.

### Search death

Tony Edwards, 40, a Customs officer, was killed while he was searching a Nigerian ship for drugs at Newport, Gwent. Mr Edwards, a father of four, of Llysant, Cardiff, fell 50ft into the ship's hold.

### Pickers held

Police and immigration officers swooped on a daffodil field near King's Lynn, Norfolk, yesterday to arrest seven men and three women, all South Africans, who were allegedly illegal foreign workers.

### Woman robbed

A businesswoman aged 59 was robbed of £4,000 when she was ambushed by two men as she left her car in a lonely country lane at Shrivensham, Oxfordshire.

### Otters return

Otters have been spotted in the Severn in Worcester for the first time in more than a century. Wildlife experts say it is because of reduced pollution.

## EC wrangle delays Strangeways bids

BY RICHARD FORD AND RACHEL KELLY

MINISTERS have been forced to extend the deadline for bids to run Strangeways jail in Manchester until next month as plans for private sector involvement in public services face further trouble.

Private sector companies have been given extra time to take into account the financial implications of an EC legal ruling that staff transferring from the public sector to commercial firms must keep their existing pay and conditions. It is the second time the Home Office has had to delay the deadline.

The ruling also threatens a flood of compensation claims from former council workers made redundant since 1981 when local authorities began contracting work out to the private sector.

Ministers have been warned by contractors that they will not bid for work if the directive applies in the UK. Robin Oakley-Smith, chairman of the cleaning and

support services association, has said the European regulations would make the process of competition virtually meaningless.

Bids to run Strangeways, undergoing a £63 million refurbishment programme after the worst prison riot in British penal history, are expected at the Home Office by mid-March. Plans to contract out prison service stores from April 1 have been delayed despite redundancy notices being issued to 153 staff in the belief that the regulations did not apply.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "The whole affair is plagued with financial mismanagement and a low level of competence."

The difficulties facing the Home Office arose after legal advice from Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, which indicated that the EC legislation was not restricted to commercial ventures.

## Rape-hunt police appeal for cabbie

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

POLICE hunting the rapist of a City accountant appealed yesterday for a London taxi driver to come forward. The cabbie picked up the woman at dawn 12 days ago after she had been held hostage for seven hours.

The victim is said to be so traumatised that she is unable to return to the vicinity of the incident to help officers to identify the premises where she was attacked.

Det. Insp. Andrew Shirley, who is leading the investigation, said: "She is in such a state, so distressed, we can't take her back to the area. She cannot face it and this is hampering the enquiry. The

taxi driver might have seen her abductor make his getaway."

"She didn't know where she was and when she flagged down the taxi she asked to be taken 'to the station'." The driver took her 200 yards to London Bridge station and when she asked what she owed him he declined to take any money.

The victim, 28, was so shocked she could not remember her home telephone number to call her husband in Orpington, Kent, from the station before she caught a train.

She was abducted as she walked to the station at about 9.30pm from a City wine bar, where she had had a drink after work, and was held inside a shop or other premises. Her attacker, who threatened

her with a knife, frog-marched her with her head forced down, telling her that passers-by would think her drunk. She remembers the sound of metal shutters being raised or lowered.

The woman did not want to report her ordeal to the police, but changed her mind after visiting her GP. Her attacker is described as white, aged 25 to 35, 5ft 10in tall, with collar-length brown hair, and of slim build. He was wearing a dark grey zip-up cotton jacket, dark green trousers and brown suede shoes. He is believed to have released her in Borough High Street near London Bridge. Anyone with information should telephone Southwark CID on 071-407 4759.

## Cash entices farmers to make friends with the corncrake

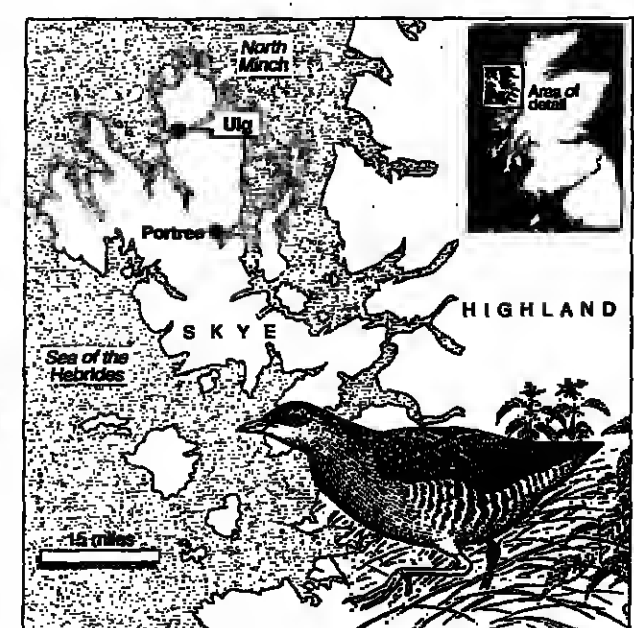
BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

CROFTERS in the most northerly part of the island of Skye are being asked to help save the corncrake. Only 500 of the birds are left in Britain, and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which is masterminding the scheme, says the Hebrides offer a last refuge for the birds, which were once familiar throughout rural Britain.

Only seven pairs of corncrakes were recorded on Skye last year, mainly in the Uig area, and crofters north of there will be offered special payments to re-establish traditional grasslands to provide a suitable habitat for the birds, which need long grass in which to rear their young.

The scheme comes into effect this spring and will initially run for five years; applicants can enter or leave it at any time.

Lesley Cranra, of SNH, said: "Corncrakes were at one time widespread throughout Britain and parts of Europe. Their numbers have been declining rapidly, mainly due to agricultural practices, and there are now fewer than 500 of these shy, migratory birds left in Britain."



"On Skye, the population has dipped from about 30 pairs in 1988 to an estimated 16 pairs last year. We hope this scheme will prevent a further population decline and, in the long term, re-establish corncrakes over a wider area."

Crofters are to be paid £20 an acre for the first 12 acres, £10 an acre for the next 12 acres and £4 an acre for the remaining land. In return for the annual payments, they will keep their livestock out of the grasslands between April and the end of July and will be expected to cut their hay or silage in August, preferably by mowing "in a corncrake-friendly pattern".

Participants in the scheme will not be eligible for the corncrake protection scheme run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which offers payments to those who can show they have corncrakes on their land.

The SNH scheme does not require crofters to have the

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## THE TIMES



# Prime minister seeks to lower the temperature in growing protectionist storm

By PETER RIDDLE  
POLITICAL EDITOR

## PROTECTIONISM

JOHN Major will later today warn President Clinton of the dangers of growing protectionism across the Atlantic in the wake of the American president's renewed attacks on European subsidies to the Airbus project.

In his talks in the White House later today, the prime minister will renew calls for an early completion of the current round of General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks while at the same time seeking to lower the temperature after recent strongly worded comments by American and French officials. His tone is, however, likely to be more conciliatory than that of Pierre Berégovoy, the French prime minister, who has urged the European Community to stand up to America over Airbus

while calling for a fresh start to the Gatt talks.

Mr Major talked to President Mitterrand of France on Monday, when he also breakfasted with Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission responsible for trade negotiations.

Later on Monday Mr Clinton told Boeing workers near Seattle that his administration would insist on strict enforcement of the agreement reached last July limiting Airbus subsidies. American

officials said the president was concerned about implementing the commitment to multilateral action on subsidies.

British officials yesterday made a low-key response to Mr Clinton's latest remarks, which they said were largely a repetition of what he had said several times over the past year. They wanted to see what the Clinton administration had in mind ahead of the renegotiation of the agreement this July.

The British government does

not accept that the Airbus project receives unfair subsidies. Officials pointed out yesterday that all four partner countries had offered launch aid repayable through a levy on sales. Britain's share has been £700 million, which the government expects to recoup.

Trade issues are likely to dominate today's talks in Washington. Mr Major will see not only Mr Clinton but senior members of his administration, including Lloyd Bentsen, the treasury secretary.

Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, and Ron Brown, the commerce secretary, as well as congressional leaders.

In preparatory briefings, British officials have been emphasising Mr Major's concern about a range of trade issues, including the Airbus, farm support and steel quotas, where comments by Mr Clinton and his senior advisers have caused apprehension in London and other EC capitals. The prime minister has welcomed

the administration's intention to seek an extension of the fast-track authority for congressional consideration of any Gatt deal, but has urged that it should not be for very long.

The British government is particularly concerned that last year's Blair House agreement between the EC and America, which defused the row over oilseed subsidies, should not be reopened for negotiation despite calls for this in both America and France.

## Clinton's outburst gives Major tough task in US talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

### The prime minister hopes to defuse trade tensions during his US visit

PRESIDENT Clinton holds his first meeting with John Major at the White House today having further inflamed transatlantic trade tensions on Monday night with his strongest condemnation yet of European Airbus subsidies.

The prime minister hopes to cool the various US-EC trade disputes that have erupted since Mr Clinton's election, and will urge negotiation not confrontation. But in a hard-line speech at the Boeing company in Seattle the new president signalled his determination to protect key US industries like aeronautics from what he perceives to be unfair foreign competition.

Mr Clinton warned America's European and Asian trading partners that "we may have a firmer trade policy in some respects than we have had in the past".

Noting that Boeing was laying off 28,000 employees, Mr Clinton declared: "Very little of that is your fault. A lot of those layoffs would not have been announced had it not been for the \$26 billion (£18 billion) that the US sat by and let Europe plough into Airbus over the last several years, so we are going to try and change the rules of the game."

European sources called the \$26 billion a "fairytale figure". Mr Clinton promised a "tough new discipline" and said Mickey Kantor, his trade representative, would closely monitor last year's US-EC agreement on limiting the

Airbus subsidies. "I have seen these agreements made over the years. I have seen people promise us they would do this, that and the other thing and then nothing ever happens," he said. America could not "give up on the production of aircraft, which is what we have come dangerously close to doing" through inertia.

Trade issues look likely to dominate the agenda during nearly six hours of scheduled talks between the two leaders, with Mr Major hoping to act as an honest broker between America and the EC.

Equally important, the prime minister will do his best to dispel the widespread notion that Anglo-American relations are at low ebb.

The Washington Post reported that Mr Major would "try to resuscitate the wheezing 'special relationship'". British officials countered by pointing out that every cabinet secretary and senior official invited to meet the prime minister at the embassy had accepted.

Les Aspin, the defence secretary, is ill, and Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, is abroad, but Mr Major will breakfast with Lloyd Bentsen, the treasury secretary, Roger Altman, Mr Bentsen's deputy, Robert Rubin, chairman of

the National Economic Council, and Samuel Berger, the deputy national security adviser. He will lunch with Mr Kantor, Bruce Babbitt, the interior secretary, Ron Brown, the commerce secretary, Federico Pena, the transportation secretary, Robert Reich, the labour secretary, James Woolsey, the CIA director, Laura D'Andrea Tyson, Mr Clinton's chief economic adviser, Anthony Lake, the national security adviser, Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and others.

Little has been made here of the Tories' help for George Bush's election campaign. Rather more has been made of Mr Major's political weakness at home. The Los Angeles Times said Mr Major was "arriving in Washington not at the top of his form, a flawed partner in an uncertain transatlantic relationship."

With such presidential force behind the Airbus issue, some form of trade sanctions now appear inevitable.

With a 43 per cent North American market share, the European consortium, in which British Aerospace holds a 20 per cent stake, has proved a formidable competitor at a time when Boeing has been hit by defence cuts and the recession. Mr Clinton's irrita-

tion is also a signal of how the administration intends to deal with high-technology industries in general. In some respects America is copying European, and especially French industrial policy. This has been frequently decried as a policy of "picking winners", although the American approach is less company-oriented - as is the case in France - than industry-based. America's new policy is heavily biased in favour of high-technology industries, which includes anything from biotechnology to defence conversion and aircraft manufacturing.

This new industrial policy is



Hands across the water: Mr Clinton addresses Boeing workers, while John Major leaves Downing Street yesterday, before his US trip



also linked to the president's plan to cut \$76 billion in defence spending, which depends to some extent on the successful conversion of high-tech defence programmes into civilian technologies.

The main driving force behind the linking of industrial and trade policies is Mrs D'Andrea Tyson, who has argued persistently that America had been wrong all along to embrace the free trade theory in connection with high-technology industries.

Her argument is that such industries frequently operate in imperfect markets and heavily rely on government aid. They also display high barriers to entry. Once a technology is lost, it becomes prohibitively expensive, if not impossible, to regain it.

Her prescription is a policy mix of direct government intervention combined with an "activist" approach to trade.

So far, her philosophy appears to have prevailed. The five-year \$17 billion industrial programme is made up of tax credits in support of high-technology research and development, the building of a national network of technology centres to allow small companies access to technologies normally beyond their reach, and the construction of a high-technology infrastruc-

ture, including high-speed trains. About \$550 million will be made available to new aviation technologies, and a similar amount will go to assist workers affected by redundancies in the defence and aerospace sectors.

The accompanying policy on trade will amount to a departure from the long-prevailing philosophy that America always benefits from free trade even if America's trading partners erect barriers against American exporters.

Instead, the new administration seems intent to move towards "managed trade", a hybrid which embraces free international trade in principle, but within pre-set limits.

This new approach leaves a question mark over last year's agreement between the EC and the US on the question of aircraft subsidies. The US administration could well seek a renegotiation of this agreement.

In a wider sense, the new policy will also affect the world trade talks. Despite Mr Clinton's conciliatory gesture to ask Congress for a renewal of the so-called fast-track negotiating authority, which runs out on March 2, Europeans may find America to be a much tougher negotiating partner in the future than before.

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## Airbus bewildered by attack

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIALS of the four-nation consortium which employs more than 30,000 workers throughout Europe in building Airbus jets were stunned at the revival of a ten-year-old trade dispute.

During the 1980s, Airbus Industrie made deeper and deeper inroads into the traditional market dominance of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, threatening to wreck trade relations between Europe and the United States. The row culminated in an international agreement last summer, with Europe agreeing to a 33 per cent ceiling on the amount the governments of Britain, France, Germany and Spain could put into the development of any new aircraft. In return the US government agreed to limit its own funding of military projects which could be used commercially. This, it was thought, had defused the dispute.

President Clinton's attack was regarded with bewilderment and scepticism in the Toulouse headquarters of Airbus. Many believed that he was talking purely for home consumption in the wake of the decision by Boeing to lay off 28,000 workers, and that he could not turn his accusations of unfair subsidies into a complaint under international law. Others were concerned that the mood of protectionism sweeping the United States would reopen the sore.

To create an industry across four nations, the fledgling Airbus asked governments to provide aid in the form of repayable loans. The first Airbus, the A300, received 100 per cent government aid and the latest version, the A321, none. Now the consortium is earning enough to provide all the \$480 million (£330 million) necessary to launch the

new aircraft. Sales earned the consortium sufficient to repay \$700 million in 1991, \$800 million in 1992 and an anticipated \$1 billion this year.

This, says Airbus, is not the case with the Americans who are providing a hidden subsidy to their plane-makers. A survey commissioned by Airbus showed that between 1976 and 1990 Boeing and McDonnell Douglas received the equivalent of \$41 billion of aid in the form of NASA contracts for research, defence contracts which could be used for commercial purposes, cockpit design research, engine technology and tax breaks.

They also claim that Boeing has partners in Japan and Italy helping to build the new Boeing 777 twin jet with the help of government subsidies and that, despite the alleged government help to Airbus, Boeing sold 60 per cent of all commercial aircraft throughout the world last year.

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## Treaty row resumes

JOHN Major will not be formally representing the EC at his meetings in Washington, but two EC issues on which the tide is running against Britain will be high on his agenda (George Brock writes).

After a two-year freeze while America and Europe argued over reducing subsidies, an agreement last November on agriculture enabled work to restart on a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade treaty.

Since January, however, the mood has soured as President Clinton has signalled his intention to attack European subsidy rules.

Mr Major is also likely to raise the question of EC trade barriers against Eastern Europe. British officials in Brussels are spending this week trying to prevent the EC limiting the quantities of steel imported from the east, but have found few allies.

## Home Office defends files search

By ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

WHITEHALL was making strenuous efforts yesterday to portray Conservative party support for President Bush's campaign against Bill Clinton last year as the work of junior party officials and minor civil servants.

Dogged by renewed controversy over the involvement of Tory officials in the election, the prime minister told the Commons that they had been "invited privately by people in the Republican party". He was jettied by Labour MPs as he said: "No one was sent by the Conservative party to take part in last year's presidential election campaign."

He added that the fares of Sir John Lacy, then campaign director at Conservative Central Office, and Mark Fullbrook, then head of campaigning, were "paid by people in the Republican party, they travelled in their own time, they paid their own personal expenses".

Margaret Beckett, Labour's deputy leader, shook her head as Mr Major

continued that "Labour did send people, including their deputy leader, to Democrat headquarters". In fact, as a statement from Mrs Beckett later confirmed, she met some of Mr Clinton's campaigners between December 13 and 15, after the election.

Mr Major faced questioning from Labour MPs over the allegations that Home Office files had been searched for information on Mr Clinton. He said: "Enquiries were told that, in accordance with normal practice, details about individual applications could not be disclosed to third parties."

Sir John Lacy, a veteran of every election campaign since 1950, remains a part-time consultant to Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory chairman, and was a friend of the late Lee Atwater, who ran the Bush campaign in 1988.

Mr Fullbrook left Central Office at the end of last

month to set up his own company, Parliamentary Liaison Services, which is advising Conservative associations and candidates on communications.

Mr Fullbrook said: "We were there for only a couple of days. I am amazed at the impact we are supposed to have made. You would have thought we changed the world. The Republicans did lose the election you know."

The Home Office said yesterday that ministers were not consulted or informed at the time that the confidential files were searched for information on Mr Clinton. They were inspected after an approach from a newspaper journalist trying to substantiate rumours circulating in the United States that Mr Clinton had sought British citizenship.

A Home Office spokesman said: "We gave the stock answer that we do not discuss individual cases." A press officer, fearing that the story would rumble on,

asked the section dealing with immigration nationality applications to see whether there was an application by Mr Clinton.

The spokesman said: "It established that there was none. Purely to stop an unnecessarily critical story running we gave the journalist guidance, on lobby terms, that no such application existed." The home secretary was told when The Washington Post ran a story about the check.

Labour MPs were sceptical about the explanation and the question remains about what would have happened if an application for citizenship had existed.

The Home Office spokesman said: "We would not have told the newspaper. We would have stuck to the line that we do not discuss individual cases. This was not a case of the Home Office combing the files to try to dig up dirt. We reserve the right to try to stop harmful stories running in the press."

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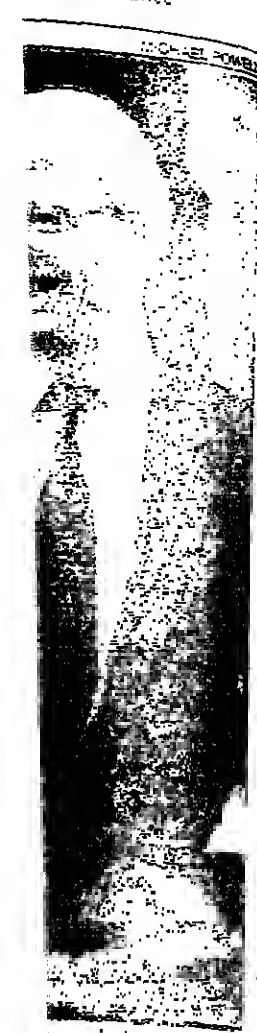
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## Tory peers attack leasehold reform

By JONATHAN PRYNN

DEEP misgivings in some quarters of the Conservative party about the government's leasehold reforms surfaced in the Lords yesterday when a succession of Tory peers criticised the proposals.

The government's housing and urban development bill, which will give up to 750,000 leaseholders the right to force their landlords to sell their freeholds, has already taken a mauling in the Commons. One Tory MP said he had never felt more ashamed of any legislation introduced by the party.

The government promised reforms to "enfranchise" leaseholders in its election manifesto but has been accused of proceeding far beyond its mandate. The government has said the reforms are aimed at extending home ownership and are a natural extension of its "right to buy" policy in the public rental sector. The government has already announced that it is prepared to amend the bill to ensure that historic areas such as Georgian crescents in London and Bath are protected.

Some of London's wealthiest land-owners, including the Duke of Westminster, who was present in the Lords during yesterday's second reading debate, Lord Cadoogan, Lord Portman and Lord Howard de Walden, stand to

lose vast swathes of their historic estates if the bill proceeds to the statute book. None of those most directly affected spoke in the debate.

Lord Peyton, a former Tory transport minister, said he had no personal interest but felt a "distaste" for the bill, which "adopted a very broad brush approach to what is a very complex and complicated problem". He criticised the bill for allowing legal contracts agreed in the past to be overturned.

The bill would discourage property letting, he said, the very opposite outcome to what the government wanted. He also expressed concern about the impact on property estates owned by charities. Any indication from the government that it was prepared to put the wishes of beneficiaries to one side would be "a very undesirable and damaging step to take". He also expressed concern about the impact of the breakup of London's great estates on the capital's streets, crescents and squares, "the beauty of which has been well preserved by careful estate management".

Lord Boardman, a former Tory Treasury minister, said he had no personal financial interest affected by the bill and rejected press suggestions that Tory objections were being made on behalf of "large

central London estate owners". His concern was for "the thousands of small freeholders". The bill appeared to disregard one of the fundamentals of Conservative philosophy: respect for the sanctity of contracts. The right to purchase enshrined in the bill would extend to foreigners and non-residents, contrary to the spirit of the party's manifesto.

Lord Middleton, the former head of the Country Landowners' Association, rejected the argument that the bill could be compared to the compulsory purchase powers of government. Compulsory purchase for development was justified by the greater public good overriding private interests. It would be better to amend existing legislation than proceed down "this very dubious route".

Opening the debate, Lord Strathclyde, the junior environment minister, described the bill as "one more stage in the government's commitment to encourage owner occupation and to enable people to take full advantage of their own property". He quoted research from the Consumers Association that found that two-thirds of leaseholders reported problems with their freeholders, nearly half of which were considered serious.



The Duke of Westminster, who stands to lose some of his historic properties

### Constituency profile

## Recession brings a murmur of protest

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

Protest does not come naturally to the constituents of Newbury, but if it does it comes as a refined murmur of disapproval. Those anticipating a roar of discontent about government policy may be disappointed when the by-election campaign, forced by the death of the Tory MP Judith Chaplin, descends on this prosperous pocket of western Berkshire.

Conservatives are looking at May 6 — the day of local elections — for this by-election. If the Liberal Democrats are to overturn a 12,357 Tory majority they will have to seize on a rare local desire for change.

Newbury, the market town of 26,000, contains only a third of the population of Newbury, the constituency. The bulk of the electorate lives in the smaller towns of Thatcham, which almost merges with Newbury, and Hungerford, or in the prosperous countryside. The constituency is a peculiar mix of old wealth built on the cloth industry, agriculture and, more recently, the growth of horse-racing, plus multinational companies such as Vodafone, Bayer, Sony, National Panasonic and IBM.

Modern Newbury sits awkwardly with its past. Once, the Kennet and Avon canal was the town's proudest boast. Now the Kennet Mall, a run-of-the-mill indoor shopping centre, takes pride of place.

The town bears scars indicating a scuffle, rather than a battle against recession. The JobCentre has doubled its staff although the number of vacancies has fallen by two-thirds. The quadrupling of the unemployment rate to 7 per cent also shows in the columns of the *Newbury Weekly News*, where only two pages of vacancies appear, compared with 16 pages a couple of years ago. However, Vodafone, Newbury's biggest employer with 1,200 staff, raised

local morale by increasing pre-tax profits by 24 per cent to £160 million last year. "The Vodafone people are the ones drinking champagne nowadays... there aren't many others," says Richard Hayman, a restaurant manager.

Many in the area are reluctant to load blame on the government, and there is a strong resolution to improve business through their own hard work. It may prove an error for the Liberal Democrats to try to capitalise on government failure.

The answer, say locals, is to address the local issues, even if they have little relevance to the national picture. If the Liberal Democrats are to overturn the majority, local people believe they must look to the vast tracts of High Tory country to the north of Newbury, home of the racing fraternity in the Lambourn valley.

Rural residents feel that the Liberal Democrats concentrated their general election campaign heavily in their own stronghold of Newbury and Thatcham, without pushing into the surrounding blue belt.

East Garston, a heavily thatched village just three miles from Lambourn, has seen glimpses of recession for the first time in recent memory. Chris Tonge who runs the village post office and shop, was paying out ten unemployment benefit cheques a week last year. "It doesn't sound much but, compared to the usual one, it's a big increase."

Sarah Bradstock who, with her husband Mark, train 30 racehorses, was a Tory voter but now ranks as a floating voter. "I will listen to anyone who is prepared to press the government on behalf of the racing industry. It means a great deal to people in this area and in the end people have to think about what affects them."

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# ARGENTINA

## Major is pressed to act on jobless

By ROBERT MORGAN  
POLITICAL STAFF

WITH the long-term unemployed now above one million for the first time since January 1988, the prime minister came under pressure yesterday to do something about it. John Smith, the Opposition leader, said in the Commons that the prime minister "fails to understand" the deep concern felt in the country. It was not "remotely satisfactory that a problem has to reach crisis proportions before it gets on to the government's agenda".

In a heated question time exchange, John Major retorted that unemployment was rising across Europe under governments of all colours, including socialist governments in France and Spain. "If there is an easy solution why is it those socialist governments and others have failed to find it?"

He rejected the suggestion that he failed to understand. It was because he did, he said, that a whole programme of measures to help had been put in place. Mr Major conceded that long-term unemployment was higher than anyone would wish to see, but by next year there would be more than 1.2 million places in such things as training schemes and business start-up schemes, and Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, was considering what other measures could be put in place.

Mr Smith urged the prime minister to release local authority receipts from the sale of council houses to help to tackle unemployment.

The prime minister said that when abroad Mr Smith acknowledged that unemployment was a world-wide problem, but when at home "he did not have the courage" to do so. "He comes here only with sound-bite politics."

Peter Luff, Tory MP for Worcester, saw some hope with Jaguar investing £500 million in Coventry and expansion plans at Rover. Mr Major said this demonstrated that the United Kingdom was regarded as a key manufacturing base by Jaguar's parent company, Ford.

## Bill to end drugs secrecy opposed

By MICHAEL DYNES  
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS to end the secrecy surrounding the licensing of new drugs are being undermined by the government despite its commitment to more open government. It was claimed yesterday.

The medicines information bill, which seeks to overhaul a sweeping legislative secrecy clause, would give the public access to test results by manufacturers on the safety and efficiency of new drugs.

More than a hundred medicines have had their licences withdrawn or suspended since 1979, including the anti-arthritis drug Opren and the tranquilliser Halcion. Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said: "Neither patients nor doctors have any right to know why such decisions were taken."

Mr Frankel says the bill, sponsored by Giles Radice, the Labour MP for Durham, is faced by a series of wrecking amendments designed to deprive it of any teeth when it returns to committee today.

Under section 118 of the 1968 Medicines Act, information on new drugs supplied to licensing authorities by drug companies is classified as confidential. Breaches of the law carry a maximum two years' imprisonment.

Mr Radice's bill would require the government to publish a summary and evaluation of information supplied by the manufacturer when issuing a licence for new drugs.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry insists that the bill, at least in its present form, "infringes" international property rights of companies while leaving them "unprotected" against exploitation from competitors.

The association said that the US was usually cited as an example of an open licensing system but it "does not make available trade secrets or commercial information relating to manufacturing methods or processes". The association added that it welcomed more openness in the medical licensing system, but insisted that Mr Radice's bill went too far.

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**FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN JERUSALEM**

Mr Christopher was also given details of the dramatic rise in the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces in the occupied territo-

An opinion poll published in yesterday's *Hebrew Daily*

The Israeli president also faces a protest demonstration in London by supporters of Mordechai Vanunu, the nuclear scientist held in solitary confinement in Israel since his conviction for treason in 1988. Vanunu was kidnapped by Israeli agents in Rome after revealing Israeli nuclear secrets to *The Sunday Times* in 1986.

people have been arrested to stop them heading for Delhi, but the threat of violence remains high. The rally has been called by the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is demanding elections in four states it controlled before being sacked for its role in the destruction of the mosque in Ayodhya last December.

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN NEW YORK

Given the publicity surrounding the case and the riots, finding a sufficiently impartial (or ignorant) jury has been a long and painstaking process. Hundreds of people filled out questionnaires or were interviewed before the final selection. "It's a very, very grave responsibility

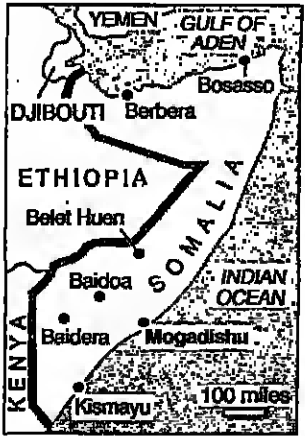
**FROM REUTER IN MOGADISHU**

Colonel Fred Peck, the US military spokesman, said the ultimatum, signed by Lieutenant General Robert Johnston, commander of the American forces, in Somalia, and US special envoy Robert Oakley, had been communicated to the warlord, also known as Morgan, by radio. "We all want all of Morgan's forces, not just those in Kismayo, and their weapons to be in their designated cantonment area, which is near the town of Doble, 30 miles northwest of Kismayo, by midnight on Thursday," Colonel Peck said. "Anything out of that cantonment by that date will be confiscated and destroyed."

Colonel Peck denied an earlier United Nations report that Kismayu had fallen into the hands of Morgan's militia, saying that the forces only controlled about half a square mile of the city which they took in fighting with loyalists of Omer Jess on Monday. Belgium also denied yesterday that Morgan's militia had seized the port. "The Belgians and the Americans are in

In Mogadishu yesterday supporters of General Muhammad Farah Aidid, Somalia's chief warlord, stoned cars and threw up barricades of flaming tyres in protest against alleged US support of Morgan's militia. The protesters blocked the main road to the US embassy and the logistics support headquarters of the 23-nation force.

The Irish Republic said yesterday it was sending a state minister as special envoy to the United States to seek American and UN support for disarming Somalia's warring factions after Valerie Place, 23, a Dublin nurse working for the charity Concern, was shot dead near Mogadishu on Monday. Dick Spring, the foreign minister, who announced that he was sending Tom Kitt, said: "This incident underlines yet again the urgent need to disarm the warring factions in Somalia and to protect the aid community."



**FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO**

and canvas holdalls. Yesterday at least 50 Russian vendors were to be seen baggling in a market unlike any other in the Middle East. Policemen demanding *baksheesh* to ignore the law against hawking were kept sweet with bribes such as

Apart from *skolko* (Russian for "how much") there was little common language, but this did not affect the frenetic pace of commerce, with amounts signalled on portable calculators.

"We are here because peres-

Goods are bought with Egyptian pounds which are later exchanged for dollars on the black market. The Russians come on tourist visas with stuffed suitcases.

Lubla, who was wearing six shawls despite the heat (and offering a "super-minimum" price equivalent to £10 each), said that after two days' trading in Cairo she was off to Alexandria before returning to Russia for more goods.

**FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG**

After a meeting of international solidarity called by the ANC over the weekend, they also agreed to ask the European Commission's observer mission to be reorganised and increased. In addition, they want the mission to be given a new leader and to publish a report.

Robert Hughes, the Labour

MP for Aberdeen North and chairman of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, speaking for anti-apartheid militants from Europe, said the group was "seized of the importance of the task of raising as much money as possible" for the ANC. The group would also try to ensure that the ANC had access to all the media during the campaign. The anti-apartheid movement would also provide transport and the resources to produce election material.

The anti-apartheid group will also appeal to the United

Nations to provide monitors to ensure that the electoral process is free and fair. The appeal calls for international verification of the results, monitoring of the campaign and supervision of voting.

The group criticised the arrangements under which Commission monitors operate. Twelve observers from Europe, mainly senior policemen, are now in South Africa. Michael Terry, secretary of Britain's Anti-Apartheid Movement, said the group needed more people with diplomatic and legal skills.

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**By BEN MACINTYRE**

But just what advice would Mrs. Roosevelt have given to her latest successor? Like Mrs. Clinton, she came to the role firing on all cylinders. Even before Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in

husband with most key appointments, discussing issues and often pressing him to take his own liberal stance on questions of race, poverty, health and housing. Her newspaper columns were widely read and many important vehicles for floating the administration's initiatives as well as her own. For 40 years Mrs. Roosevelt championed her causes, sometimes in spite of or her husband's opposition, thus earning the enduring enmity of at least part of the Washington establishment.

But instead of the meddling shrew she was painted by her enemies, Mrs. Roosevelt has emerged as a woman of vision and a political force in her own right. Mrs. Clinton is aware of this and has been



**The guru and the disciple: Eleanor Roosevelt is the former First Lady to whom Hillary Clinton defers**

Even before her husband was elected president, Mrs. Clinton had apparently elevated Mrs. Roosevelt to the status of a personal spiritual guru. "As the campaign wore on, I devoured information about Mrs. Roosevelt and would ask her the toughest questions," Mrs. Clinton said.

passionate, energetic activist, but she was also a naturally supple and subtle politician. Mrs Clinton may overshadow Mrs Roosevelt in intelligence and sophistication, but she lacks her instinctive sense of when to attack and when to retreat. Mrs Roosevelt was careful to maintain herself as "a concerned citizen ... [with] a point of view of my own", thus deftly reflecting attacks by those who saw her as an intrusive

powermonger. At a White House breakfast in 1936, Mrs. Roosevelt advised the women in public life: "You cannot take anything personally; you cannot bear grudges; you must finish the day's work when the day is done." It is advice Mrs. Clinton might do well to adopt. In spite of her sometimes spiteful exterior, Mrs. Clinton takes criticism personally and painfully, and instead of rolling with the punches, her instinct is to punch back. Mrs. Roosevelt had a charm and poise which softened her image but increased her effectiveness; a trait which Mrs. Clinton of-

Mr. Clinton is subject to far closer scrutiny than any of her forebears, but arguably that calls for more, not less, adaptability on her part. She is brusque and abrasive and she can be remarkably unsubtle: she has irritated politicians by over-familiarity, displaying her political clout like no First Lady before her and has reinforced the now widespread belief that she is unbending in her belief in her own

GIULIANO, an Italian prime minister, bowed in respect, called a parliament dance vote to flagging anti-germanism and the Chamber unimpressed. He fled his resignation, and the scandal of the changed prime minister because the ropes and the plot was a general election. Confidence and official daily to accept the venture and the work corruption in the proposed housing of a crisis of MPs, a bitter move.

**Confidence  
vote called  
to help**

GIULIANI said the prime minister bowed in respect to the parliament's decision to try the judge for the firmness and courage of the chamber. The Italian prime minister said he was pleased that the Italian government was taking such a strong stand against corruption and organized crime. The prime minister said he was pleased that the Italian government was taking such a strong stand against corruption and organized crime. The prime minister said he was pleased that the Italian government was taking such a strong stand against corruption and organized crime.

ممكن من الأصل



# Balkan war crimes tribunal seems likely to remain a pious hope



Karadzic asked to be free of harassment

NOW the question is, will handoffs be snapped around Radovan Karadzic's wrists next time he joins Lord Owen, the European Community's peace negotiator, for talks? The American State Department has identified the leader of the Bosnian Serbs as a possible war criminal, yet his presence is as essential as ever in the pursuit of an eventual peace settlement in Bosnia.

The dilemma has been created by the United Nations Security Council's vote to set up a war crimes tribunal, although US officials insist there is no contradiction and that the pursuit of peace and of justice run parallel.

## A war crimes trial might please the Americans. Few believe that it would put the men who committed atrocities behind bars

more obvious difficulties. Only then will it be clear if the tribunal, the first of its kind since the postwar Nuremberg trials, is a public relations exercise or something more far-reaching.

There is perhaps no such thing as a perfectly fair war crimes court. The authority of Nuremberg was supported by the presence of the Russians, who were known to have committed their own war atrocities.

135 prison camps. The climate in these camps is weighed against a fair collection of evidence; guards listen to testimony and are free to punish inmates later.

the policy? How are orders passed to the men on the front line? The main impact of a war crimes tribunal is to deter those who are still committing atrocities. Some of the war lords singled out by the US State Department as criminals are clearly beyond deterrence.

worked out between Serbs and Croats with both refusing, as it were, to press charges. To stop such a cover-up is partly why President Clinton has decided to press so hard for a tribunal. There is a moral point to be made. To some degree the results of "ethnic cleansing" will have to be accepted by the West as part of a negotiated peace in the Balkans. That is distasteful to many, and a tribunal that publicises atrocities and points a finger at the criminals may help Americans to accept the unfairness of it all. But only the most determined of optimists in the Clinton administration really believe that war criminals will end up in the dock, much less in prison.

# America scales down its plans to airlift supplies into Bosnia

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE planned American-led operation to drop food and medical supplies from the air to thousands of people trapped in Bosnia has been scaled down to a strictly short-term humanitarian mission without a heavyweight fighter-bomber escort.

The initial plan by the Pentagon to send in fighters to target anti-aircraft gun and missile positions threatening the aid planes appears to have been dropped. British diplomatic sources said the Americans had made no mention of air cover in the memo sent to all Nato allies.

The memo, received in allied and UN Security Council capitals on Monday evening, stressed that the food drop operation would be an "exclusively humanitarian expedition" to start as soon as possible. The American government has appealed for wide support.

Foreign Office sources said that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, was in favour of the operation but was prepared to give way to Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, if the military advice cautioned against joining the mission. There are no plans at this stage for the RAF to be involved.

The ministry of defence spent yesterday working out the risks involved in sending RAF Hercules cargo planes over hostile terrain in Bosnia.

pension of flights. The plan envisaged by the Americans is to drop food by air to any part of Bosnia, not just eastern Bosnia, where supplies are desperately short. Since the road convoys are now getting through once again — a British-escorted convoy reached Tuzla in northern Bosnia yesterday — the Americans have suggested the air drops would be a temporary complement to the ground operations. They would also be carried out in consultation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, or UNHCR.

The decision on whether RAF Hercules will take part is expected within the next 24 hours. The RAF has extensive experience in air dropping food supplies, using three different methods:

□ The ultra low-level altitude technique, dropping palletised food from 50ft, using a drag parachute to extract the supplies from the Hercules and a main parachute to land them.

□ The free-drop technique, where bundles of food are dropped from 15ft-50ft without a parachute.

□ The one-tonne method, where larger supplies on pallets are dropped by parachute from 1,000ft.

The aim would be to drop the supplies as close to the target areas as possible. The higher the altitude, the less accurate the drop.

RAF sources said that since the terrain was rugged and mountainous, the third method, dropping from at least

1,000ft, would be the favoured choice. Lower-level flights would also be vulnerable to ground attack.

The official US proposal was welcomed by the Foreign Office yesterday because of the clear indication from Washington that this was not going to be a large scale military operation that could be interpreted as the first phase of a longer term plan to intervene in Bosnia. The Serbs have warned against air drops. However, British diplomatic sources said the objective would be to drop food to all three communities in Bosnia, the Serbs, Muslims and Croats, to underline that it was a purely humanitarian mission.

Nato sources said the US had revealed plans to start parachuting relief supplies into Bosnia in the next few days. Nato's military authorities are also looking at ways of supporting the US effort. Aways, the early warning aircraft, are already monitoring the skies over Bosnia, and could be involved.

Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, said his country would take part in US-led air drops. The Foreign Office emphasised the "effective" British humanitarian effort in Bosnia to date. So far, 279 escorted convoys had delivered 20,376 tonnes of aid to communities in need and 351 RAF flights into Sarajevo had delivered 4,772 tonnes of aid.

Air-drop dilemma, page 1



Victory garlands: Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian prime minister, following in the footsteps of two soldiers carrying a wreath to the tomb of the unknown soldier in Moscow yesterday. Hardliners later gathered outside the Kremlin to call for the return of the Soviet Union

## Yeltsin angers veterans by missing ceremony

# Kremlin warns of subversion in army

FROM ANNE McELVY IN MOSCOW

PAVEL Grachev, Russia's defence minister, gave a warning yesterday that nationalist forces in the military were trying to subvert the army and use it to overthrow the government.

Marshal Grachev was speaking in a TV interview on Armed Forces Day. It was the first direct admission by a senior military figure that the army is threatened by instability and the battle for power between conservatives and liberals. "These people want to agitate within and split up the army," he said. "They want to blow it up from the inside to achieve their well-known ambitions." These were "criminal and dangerous".

Marshal Grachev said that the army remained loyal to President Yeltsin and added: "The command will not permit any split in the military ranks or any provocative calls

for the formation of underground committees intent on staging political spectacles." He was responding to the attendance of a group of officers in uniform at a weekend opposition meeting which called for his resignation and that of the Russian leader. An Afghan veteran considered a hardliner, the marshal's unusually frank admission indicates that he fears for his own post and fragmentation of the military if the challenge to Mr Yeltsin's authority should become a hardline nationalist push for power.

With other government leaders, Marshal Grachev attended the traditional wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the war dead at the Kremlin walls. But Mr Yeltsin, who is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, stayed away, angering conservatives and war veterans. It was the first

time a Kremlin leader had been absent from the ceremony. Demonstrators gathered outside the Kremlin, calling for reconstruction of the Soviet Union and branding Mr Yeltsin a traitor.

Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president and a possible rival, refused to comment on Mr Yeltsin's absence, saying only, "he has the right to a break like everyone else." Locked in a struggle for constitutional supremacy with his parliament, the Russian leader has retreated to his country dacha for a strategy overhaul.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative parliamentarian speaker, on a visit to Finland in what looked like an attempt to canvass international support for his cause, said yesterday that the Russian people were unwilling to risk a divisive referendum on who

should rule the country and abandon the idea of a plebiscite. Negotiations between Mr Khasbulatov and Mr Yeltsin on power-sharing reached a stalemate at the weekend. The president has said that if they fail he will call a referendum.

Morale within the army is low as it struggles to come to terms with the ideological aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse, falling living standards and problems in housing as soldiers and their families are withdrawn from Eastern Europe.

Army dissidents, like Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Terekhov, grouped around the self-styled Union of Officers, have brought into the open the struggle between officers loyal to the government and those who want a restoration of authoritarian national rule.

## Leaders of coup march in Moscow

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

THOUSANDS of people, including the four ringleaders of the 1991 Communist coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, marched through central Moscow yesterday to protest against President Yeltsin's reformist government.

Communists and right-wing nationalists were joined by second world war veterans in a sea of hammer-and-sickle flags for a rally marking Armed Forces Day. Chanting *Sovetsky Soyuz* (Soviet Union) and singing, they marched to Manezh Square, near the Kremlin walls, where government leaders had earlier laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

The rally was organised by the Communist party, which was recently unbanned when a court ruled against Mr Yeltsin's post-coup decree.

## Confidence vote called to help lira

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

GIULIANO Amato, the Italian prime minister, yesterday bowed to market pressure and called a parliamentary confidence vote to try to revive the flagging fortunes of his government and the lira.

The Socialist leader had insisted that a vote in the Chamber of Deputies was unnecessary when he reshuffled his cabinet after the resignations of two key ministers amid the worst corruption scandal since the war.

The prime minister changed his mind, he said, because the lira was on the ropes and concern over unemployment was causing labour unrest, including a four-hour general strike in Tuscany yesterday.

Confidence in politicians and officials is being shaken daily by arrests, yesterday in Verona and the Venice region, in connection with public works corruption charges.

## Russian archivists consider cash offers for Hitler secrets

FROM ANATOL LIEVIN IN MOSCOW

THE Russian state archive is to sell information contained in secret documents from Hitler's bunker taken by Soviet troops at the end of the second world war. The announcement was made by the archive's director, Sergei Mironenko, who has already allowed Russian television to show pieces of what are alleged to be Hitler's skull.

The fragments, including bone from the temple area showing a bullet hole, had been held for decades in a box marked, inexplicably, "blue ink for pens".

Mr Mironenko said that the documents, drawing on testimony from people sheltering with Hitler as Soviet troops closed in, contained "sensational material about the personal life of Hitler and Eva Braun", but he refused to go into detail about the contents of the six thick volumes, compiled by Stalin's secret police, because of their commercial value.

Among the material is testimony by Hitler's butler, Hans Lange. He said that after an emotional farewell Hitler withdrew to his private rooms. Minutes later Herr Lange heard a shot ring out. He then helped to carry the body into the chancellery garden to be burnt.

Until recently, not only Soviet rule but bitter Russian memories of the war would have made a sale of the items unthinkable. Archive and library directors, however, have explained that such sales have now become necessary because of the desperate state into which their collections have fallen, with many books and documents rotting away for want of proper care.

If the validity of these new documents is established, Mr Mironenko's sale will be the most spectacular of all, and will probably make his archive a fortune.

According to the magazine, *Novoe Vremya*, the skull fragments and jawbone, with dental work allowing clear identification, were brought to Moscow shortly after the

Nazi defeat. The rest of the skeleton was secretly destroyed in 1970 in the East German city of Magdeburg, by order of the Soviet and East German governments.

Hitler shot himself and Braun, whom he had married shortly before, on April 30, 1945, as Soviet troops approached through the ruins of Berlin.

Hitler's body was never shown, though a former Soviet officer claimed recently it had been buried and exhumed several times in Germany before being brought to Moscow in the 1970s.

In another development which underlines the urgency with which Russians are seeking to make money, the Russian Orthodox Church has announced that it intends to go into banking.

The church will link up with the Greek Egnatia bank, and with capital of \$30 million (£20.6 million) plans to open 100 branches of the Orthodox bank in Moscow, St Petersburg and in a number of Black Sea towns by 1995.

## Race riot trial starts in Rostock

FROM REUTERS IN ROSTOCK

AT THE first big trial linked to last summer's race riots in Rostock, Germany, an unemployed painter from eastern Berlin charged with attempted murder argued yesterday that he was only an innocent bystander.

Bernd Teuber, 22, denied throwing a petrol bomb at a police officer during five days of rioting that shook the Baltic port city last August. "I didn't throw a Molotov cocktail and I didn't throw any stones," said Herr Teuber, who was handcuffed and tried to hide behind a newspaper from news photographers and television cameras as he was led into the packed courtroom. "I didn't do anything."

German television reported that a court in Neubrandenburg opened a trial yesterday against eight men and a woman charged with attempted murder during similar unrest last year in the town north of Berlin. So far 25 other Rostock riot suspects have been tried in district courts for lesser offences. Rostock prosecutors are preparing at least one more attempted murder case as well as four other major cases.

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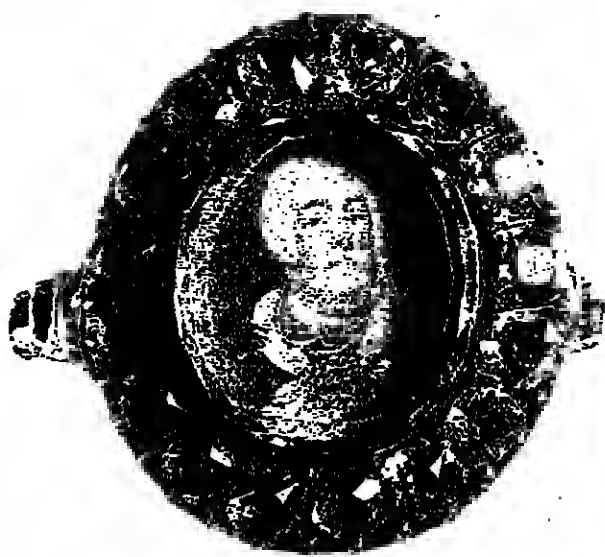
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# A fashion near the knuckle



Seal of authority: men have worn rings for 5,000 years

Rings, the bigger the better, have moved from male ears to male fingers. Joseph Connolly reports on the latest in high street cred

Last week I met a large, rather doughty young man called Blaze in a part of Bermondsey, south London, which despite being just a couple of minutes from the Design Museum and Conran's "Gastrodome", didn't feel like it. Blaze's ears were pierced, but no rings hung there; by contrast, his fingers were rock-hard and aglow with eight great signets, each so fat as to force his hands into a permanent spasm.

The biggest — whose centre was a 22 carat gold half-sovereign — was a present from his mother and the rest he "just sort of picked up". All were 9 carat gold, and the attention I was paying them caught the eye of a 19-year-old called Mark who sported just four rings, very similar in design. "Four is respect," he said. "Eight ain't."

The subtle shifts of street fashion for men are hard to keep up with — much to the delight of the perpetrators of each successive oddity. Just when you have come to terms with the ubiquity of the backward-facing nylon baseball cap, it has all but vanished; vast-tongued and crazy Michelin-man trainers are no longer dragged through the shopping mall on the ends of balloon-shaped, low-slung, denim-crocheted legs; the shellsuit is (almost) an embarrassing memory.

And nowadays rings have moved from carboles to fingers. Big rings, many rings, gold rings, rings which might quite literally knock your eye out. What we are talking about here is rings with attitude.

I asked Blaze why he wore eight rings, and he replied

because he had eight fingers. Did they symbolise anything? "They symbolise deep respect — people look up to you, you know, if they're the real thing. And", he added, bunching his collection into fists, "they back off — you know?"

In a new book — simply entitled *Rings*, and subtitled *Symbols of Wealth, Power and Affection* (well — two out of three ain't bad) — we learn that rings were originally a male adornment over 5,000 years ago, and continued as such long after those of the Roman emperors bore intaglio portraits of themselves, thereby upgrading an expensive ornament into, quite literally, a seal of authority.

Oddly enough, the silhouette of an emperor or some other all-purpose military aggressor is one of the best-selling designs on the streets today — and I have this on no less an authority than Ratners the Jewellers.

A walk around London's West End reveals that while the windows of the most up-market jewellers such as Cartier, Mappin & Webb and Garrard are almost devoid of any male jewellery, save watches, the more accessible Ratners, Ernest Jones and H. Samuel are positively awash with it: tie bars, earrings, medallions, identity bracelets and, most plentifully of all, rings.

This confirms a suspicion that while the rings affected by the likes of the Prince of Wales are inherited, and those of Ringo Starr and Sir Jimmy Savile commissioned, only the stuff on the street is actually



Rings with attitude: a fistful of rings is good, two fistfuls even better, even if you have difficulty holding your pint

bought — and bought in quite extraordinary quantities, according to the doyenne of high street jewellers, Elizabeth Duke of Argos.

The current Argos catalogue lists tie-ticks, five ear-rings and just two medallions — and getting on for 50 men's rings, ranging from the perennially popular black onyx oval in 9 carat gold at £19.99, up to Blaze's half-sovereign set in a gold octagon and sporting a good deal of roccoco filigree at £99.99. This is Argos's all-time bestseller ("Many, many thousands are sold every year," Ms Duke says) and coming up fast on the outside is our emperor on a cameo (a dead ringer for Mussolini) at £38.99.

But it is the look that is beyond belief. Referred to by Argos as "designs of distinction for the man of today" and billed up and down the high street as "fashion jewellery", these rings are in fact caught

"They symbolise deep respect — people look up to you, you know, if they're the real thing"

in a timewarp spanning the years between the black market spiv from *Dad's Army* and George Cole's Flash Harry in the St Trinian's films, with a nod in the direction of Del Boy. Diagonal stripes, sunburst "diamonds", bald eagles, lions rampant, heraldic shields, paisley bits, twiddle bits — the *Playboy* rabbit for goodness sake. But newly fashionable it all is, albeit in an extreme and provocative form.

Of course, street fashion is all about overkill — the widest (or tightest) trousers imaginable, the biggest shoes, the peak on the cap that can blind

at 20 paces — but all these extremes eventually percolate down into the mainstream, diluted if not on grounds of taste then certainly for practical reasons (Blaze could barely grasp his pint of bitter).

Evidence of the fashion seeping into the older middle classes is apparent in the recent and steady rise in popularity of the male wedding ring, some high street shops calling it the "groom ring" despite *Debut*'s Etiquette being quite firm on the matter: "In England, only the

bride receives a wedding ring unless the bridegroom comes from a country in which it is customary for him to receive one too (most of continental Europe, for instance)."

Even the Prince of Wales has come under fire for his signet ring, not because he wears one (it bears the Prince of Wales feathers, and wearing it is therefore his right), but because he wears it on his pinky. Some say this is not done, others that if the heir to the throne does it, it is automatically "done".

Leeway in these matters is clearly on the way: the message is that a man cannot have too many rings on his fingers. Watch this space for news about bells on toes.

● Rings: Symbols of Wealth, Power and Affection by Diana Scarisbrick is published by Thames & Hudson on March 1 (£3).

Times Newspapers Ltd 1993

## Something in the jeans



SARAH MOWER

Now read this from a jeans company advertisement in the current issue of *i-D* magazine. "Modern children need to solve their own problems: teaching kids to KILL helps them deal directly with reality... if they never learn to blast the brains out of their neighbours what kind of damn future has this country of ours got?" The visual shows a girl in a pair of cut-off denim shorts posing against a blown-up image of a white youth holding a gun.

Until last week, I'd been too much of a coward to criticise the kind of copy in that advert. It means I'm not cool, right? When I phoned the advertising agency who had placed the ad, a spokesman poured detached contempt on me by saying that anyone who had seen the other ads in the series would realise they were ironic, and that they were aimed at "intelligent style leaders and opinion-makers".

OK, so this is my opinion: we don't actually need any more clever-dick irony from the likes of jeans marketing men. Guess? Jeans have done sex, I suppose, so it's a small step to guns if you're a copywriter fixated by the idea that only something more shocking than, say, a very young girl sitting on a sugar daddy's lap, will shift your load of the same old denim, rather than the competition's. Advertising isn't responsible for anything other than selling goods, right? And if you, take it literally, you're dumb anyway. When I asked the editor of *i-D* what he thought of the ad, he said: "Er, can I call you back?"

Until last week, middle-class people like us have been so afraid of being accused of Whitehousean tendencies that we have let such things pass — or rather, slide onto the heavy moral muckheap accumulating in our own back yards. For the sake of our own equilibrium and dignity, we have looked in the other direction and kidded ourselves that when the time comes, it will just be up to us as individual parents to protect and explain.

But can that be enough? Now that everybody has noticed there is actually a malaise out there and we're all looking for something or someone to blame, it becomes people like us to look at our own sphere of influence, and start asking questions.

In our household, there's plenty of reason for guilt to come home to roost. I'm in the fashion media, my husband

band is in the music industry; we have a two-year-old son. People like us preside over and encourage — however distantly — the popular culture that feeds into magazines like this. *i-D* is a magazine about the style and music that kids salvage out of poverty, hopelessness, illiteracy and moral bankruptcy.

Incoherence has always been its stance — a sort of visual parallel to the meaningless eddying of modern urban life. On your local news-stand, it is the bleakest mirror held up to the pop culture of extreme youth you are likely to find.

Until now, prevailing I'm-OK-you're-OK attitudes in the pop culture industries have meant that one habitually looked at raw images

from the street as a kind of art that could eventually be rounded off and used to promote a product. If one was shocked or unnerved by what one saw, then it was as well not to admit it for fear of being labelled old or out

of touch. *i-D* magazine has been around for a long time, since Punk at least, but has always prided itself on staying on the side of street kids while other style magazines like *The Face* and *Arena* slid inexorably into 1980s gloss.

It seems to me that *i-D* thinks it is a non-judgmental documentary medium that photographs and reports what's going on in the streets without filtering it through any value system. As a sample, this issue includes an interview with the rapper Ice-T, who became notorious for his *Cop Killer* song last year, and a foray into the British rap-influenced skateboard sub-culture which reports that "At times their world feels impenetrable. Insular, suspicious minds react coldly to your approaches."

If the interviewer experiences a frisson of fear — when encountering these ten, 12, 14-year-olds, the result, explicit or not, is to glorify yet another cold, hard society of lost boys. Only if you're a parent do you look at their childish faces and feel despair. If you're a kid, you'd want to be one of them.

But let's not be too quick to shoot the messenger. The point is not particularly that magazines like *i-D* should be banned or censored, but that adults should shake up their desensitised moral reflexes and take in what they are showing us. It is a desolate, desolating picture, but it is past the time where people like us can protest that we are powerless to do anything about it.

**SALONPAS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN**

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## The sweet smell of the Nose

Chanel's invisible man has created a fragrance for the nineties

Monsieur Polge has a beautiful nose. It is elegant, purposeful and refined. He holds it lovingly from time to time between his forefingers, or strokes it while searching for the *not* just, as though it were the source of his inspiration.

Monsieur Polge's nose is probably the greatest on earth. At 50 he is scent-maker to Chanel, a position of such eminence that he is known simply as "The Nose". The rest of him might as well be invisible. Karl Lagerfeld, who does for Chanel's fashion what Jacques Polge does for fragrance, is highly visible. But the creator of Coco, and keeper of the formula for Chanel No 5 — who has ever seen him?

Since the fifties, fragrances have been identified with the women who endorse them. Think of Marilyn Monroe, Catherine Deneuve, Ali McGraw. Cristalle conjures up the face of the supermodel Claudia Schiffer. One does not give a thought to M. Polge. Yet here he is, with his exquisite nose and sharp brown eyes, and his modesty. "A lot of what makes up the success of a perfume is not the perfume itself," he says, "it is packaging, marketing and so on."

Chanel has produced M. Polge in person for the launch of Cristalle as an eau de

parfum (it is already an eau de toilette). The launch is a response to a change in fashion in scents, which requires a stronger formula. M. Polge learnt scent-making at a college in Grasse in Provence before going to New York in 1968 to a firm making scents to order (only three couture houses have their own Nose — Chanel, Guerlain and Patou).

On his return to Paris, he was invited to work for Chanel. "Chanel has a style," M. Polge says. "My role is to make this style come alive and define its identity in perfume. In the same way as Monsieur Lagerfeld does with fashion. Only he can do it several times a year. I do it once in ten years."

In the eighties, the decade of power dressing, M. Polge invented Coco, a mature, baroque scent. For the nineties, with the return of flowery dresses and flowing skirts, M. Polge has produced Cristalle eau de parfum, a lighter "green" fragrance.

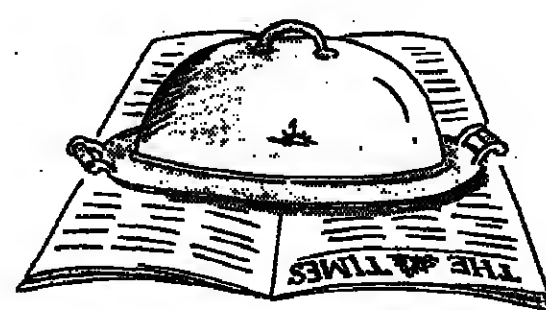
M. Polge explains the relation of fashion to scent as the relation of body and soul. "Couturiers provide the external clothing, but perfume is the interior clothing. It is a way of prolonging the style of the couturier. Perfume is the invisible dress."

CLARE LONGRIGG

## TOMORROW

Living wills: how to take control of your means of death

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The Times presents a selection of exclusive and unprecedented offers. They'll gain you entrance to the 23 celebrated restaurants and hotels that meet the rigorous standards set by Relais & Châteaux. For details, turn to the Weekend section of Saturday's Times. The paper for the well-read, and now the well-fed.

THE TIMES

هكذا من الأصل



James Landale and Stewart Tendler chart 48 hours in the criminal life of the capital

# Mean streets: the face of London '93

Friday night at London's Notting Hill police station. A tall Victorian building, it is half school, half hospital, all lino and white tile. The cells — four for men, one for women and a detention room — smell more of prison than police. An aroma of old coffee and urine rises from the two-man "drunk room". "We do the duty up from time to time," the duty officer says, "but they soon dirty up again."

Downstairs, the duty officers in the computer aided dispatch (CAD) room scan their screens. Apart from the crackle of the radio, it is quiet. At 6.30pm the cells are empty and the pubs are full.

Ten minutes later, the radios

surge into life. "Police officer in need of urgent assistance." No one bothers to ask why as we sprint for the cars. Soon, sirens wailing, four police cars and a van pull up outside a pub near Notting Hill Gate tube station. A scrum of bodies writhes on the pavement. A young skinhead emerges, shouting, from the maul, trogmarched between two policemen. His nose is bleeding. Another dishevelled young man, in jeans and a windcheater, turns out to be the arresting officer. The skinhead is later charged with violent and threatening behaviour and assaulting a police officer.

The concern shown for a fellow officer in danger is heightened by the knowledge that a policeman

AS JOHN Major leads a crusade against crime. Times reporters have investigated the impact of persistent, and juvenile, offenders in two areas of inner London. A vivid picture emerges of 48 hours in the life of two police stations and the people who became involved in 102 crimes. Only 16 per cent of these offences are likely to be cleared up.

The crime that people living in Kensington, west London, are most likely to experience is burglary (14 cases over the 48 hours; in neighbouring Notting Hill, the chances of being burgled are also high (seven instances over the

same period) and cars are vulnerable (23 car break-ins compared with eight in Kensington). Theft from a person, be it mugging or pickpocketing, was evenly spread; seven cases in Notting Hill, six in Kensington. Straightforward theft, stealing a handbag in a pub or shoplifting, was more likely in commercial Kensington: 16 incidents compared with five in Notting Hill.

Three cars were stolen during the 48 hours, all in Notting Hill. Juveniles are believed to be responsible for 80 per cent of car crime in the area and 50 per cent of burglaries.

the "lonely hearts club band", take us on patrol in their Vauxhall Astra 1.5 GLX. Contrary to popular opinion, none of the cars are souped-up. "They are driven round the clock," Sgt Pepper says. "It is amazing they last."

At 8.40pm we are called to a burglary. A man has taken a woman's bag from her flat. Notting Hill now has its own anti-burglary initiative, but Sgt Pepper is sceptical: "You don't stop it, you just move it on to somebody else's path. It's all one big game."

Lack of resources is a frequent gripe. Sgt Pepper, 31, married with a daughter, says increasing the number of police on the streets would not help. "We need better equipment," he says. "Then our

detection rate will increase." At Notting Hill the CAD room looks like an old-fashioned telephone exchange, where phones are dialled, not pressed. Some of the personal radios worn on the uniform lapel are not compatible with neighbouring forces, making communication even more difficult.

We stop and search a battered transit van, looking out of place in a wealthy Holland Park street. Its three occupants protest, but have no identification and the van is started with a screwdriver, not a key. Nothing is found and they are allowed to go on. PC Kilgallon is convinced they are housebreakers. On returning to my flat in neighbouring Kensington at 2am I find it has been broken into.

## Extremes keep police busy

Notting Hill, in west London, is an area of extremes. Its 49,000 inhabitants, who live in some of the most expensive and most run-down streets in the capital, are protected by 220 police officers. In the southern Holland Park end of the Notting Hill police area residents include Richard Branson, Michael Winner and Tony Benn — but little more than a mile north in Ladbroke Grove lies deprivation, a shifting population and severe unemployment.

Famous for its antique market each weekend in Portobello Road, Notting Hill hosts the largest street event in Europe every year with the Caribbean-based carnival. It was also the scene of the first of the modern urban riots in the 1970s when the black community clashed with police. Many people in the north of the area now come from the Mediterranean area.

Colville, one of the northern council wards in the area, had an unemployment rate of 24 per cent last year. This compared with 17 per cent in the whole of inner London.

For Chief Supt Dave Gilbertson and his officers the main problems are burglary, juvenile crime and offences used to fund drug taking. Notting Hill police need at least seven people to run the station in Ladbroke Road around the clock, with a team of 12 officers on duty outside on the streets. The station has six vehicles. Only one, the area car, is always

manned by two people. The proportion of patrol officers on foot and in vehicles varies but there tend to be more men on foot during the day.

In one month last year 100 burglaries were arrested as part of a special initiative. The area is prey to a group of about 20 skilled residential burglars who are capable of scaling a 70ft drainpipe and ready to use builders' scaffolding. In the past 18 months one burglary yielded £250,000 in paintings and antiques.

About 50 per cent of the burglaries are thought to be the work of juveniles (aged over ten and under 17) and there is a nucleus of hardened young criminals. A list of the top suspects reveals that the leader has been arrested 68 times over two years and may be responsible for 600 crimes. Mr Gilbertson and Det Chief Insp John McSwan, who heads 44 CID officers, blame a justice system which frees offenders on bail, letting them repeat their crimes, and finally deals out weak punishment.

Juveniles are responsible for 80 per cent of car crime in the area and the two officers believe offences could be halved by greater attention to car security. An antique dealer recently had a suit of Persian armour taken from his car. It was worth £180,000.

Below is the police crime log for the area between 2am on Friday, January 29, and 2am the following Sunday:

**FRIDAY, January 29:**  
6.00-15.20: Hazelwood Crescent W10. Burglary, council flat. Two stereos, video recorder, worth £1,300 taken.  
9.00: Powis Terrace W11. Mercedes 190E of Liverpool sales director broken into, clothing worth £400 stolen.  
12.30-13.40: Kensington Sports Centre, B-reg Renault window smashed, clothing and radio worth £375 taken.  
15.10-15.15: Henry Dickens Court W11. F-reg Transit van. Rear window smashed, video recorder taken.  
15.30-17.00: Hazelwood Crescent W10. Burglary. Occasional away.  
16.00-20.00: Silchester Estate W10. Window of A-reg Mercedes saloon smashed. Nothing taken.  
16.00-23.00: Cambridge Gardens W10. Burglary, basement flat £350 video recorder.  
17.00-21.00: Kendal House W10. Criminal damage in telephone cable.  
17.30: Latimer Rd W10. Briefcase stolen at knife-point on scheduled footpath. Property later recovered.  
18.15: Chertsey Road W10. G-reg Volvo estate broken into via rear quarterlight. Handbag with £90 cash taken.  
18.30: Notting Hill W11. Video exchange shop. Purse, £120 cash and cards taken.  
18.40: Near Notting Hill Gate tube. Man arrested outside pub for assaulting policeman.  
19.00-20.00: Kensington New Pool W11. Car park. Window of J-reg Rover 216 smashed, boot opened. £300 laptop computer taken.  
19.30-20.30: Sutton Estate W10. Estate supervisor's Ford Escort window smashed. Portable phone worth £250 taken.  
20.00: Silchester Estate W10. A-reg Mercedes. Owner unemployed. Nothing taken.  
20.20: Motor cycle damaged and parts stolen off Kensington Church Street.  
20.35: Colborne Road W10. Handbag with £100 cash and cards, snatched.  
20.40: St Charles Square. Man breaks into flat and takes handbag.  
21.15: Royal Crescent W11. Handbag snatched from guest at Kensington Hilton.  
21.44: Boy charged with breaking into Renault in Lancaster Road and stealing cassette machine.

21.45-22.00: Kensington Church Road W8. Churchill pub. Dutch tourist loses wallet with £225 cash and cards.  
21.50: Park from 20.40 burglary found.  
22.25: Sixteen-year-old boy arrested for breaking curfew bail condition.  
23.00-23.30: Kensington Hilton W11. Visitor's handbag stolen.  
**SATURDAY, January 30:**  
07.00: Portobello Road W10. Tyres slashed on market trader's B-reg Ford Transit sometime between 23.00 Friday.  
09.00: Notting Hill Gate W11. £400 blender stolen from restaurant by man claiming to take it for repair.  
10.14: Campden Hill Road W8. Window of G-reg VW Passat smashed after 15.30 on Friday. Children's tapes worth £10 taken.  
11.00: Barby Road junction W10. Man carrying shop takings to bank attacked by two men. Money taken. Men escaped to waiting car.  
11.00: Lonsdale Road W10. H-reg Vauxhall Astra stolen after 19.00 Friday.  
11.00-17.30: Cambridge Gardens W10. Window of C-reg Daihatsu jeep smashed. Wax coat, £180, taken.  
11.50-12.00: Colborne Road W10. Briefcase taken from E-reg Ford Sierra as owner loading car.  
12.30: Basset Road W11. Spectacles stolen from communal area.  
12.30-13.50: North Kensington sports centre. Mountain bike stolen from teacher.  
13.00-13.30: Kingsdown Close W10. Window of Y-reg Vauxhall Astra broken. £200 radio taken. Damage, £60.  
13.00-15.40: Walmers Road W11. 190D Mercedes window smashed. Handbag taken.  
13.05: Portobello Green W11. Wallet stolen from woman shopping.  
13.05-15.00: Kingsdown Close W10. Axes stolen from fire engine after call.  
13.15: Latimer Road W10. Car windows smashed by two car thieves. One caught by nine year olds. One caught by victim, second held later.  
14.00: Lancaster Road W11. Bonnet of Saab 900 Turbo broken open.  
14.00-15.40: Westbourne Grove W11. Handbag of antique



COURTFIELD GARDENS, SOUTH SIDE: 12 BLOCKS, 8 BURGLARIES

● Burglaries  
● No burglaries  
● No reply

A classically desirable address in Kensington, west London, Courtfield Gardens is a mixture of privately-owned flats and bedsits where even a two-bedroomed flat can cost £200,000. It was chosen at random for The Times survey in which we visited numbers 1-39 in the square (at two there was no reply) to ask about their experience of crime (James Landale writes).

In the 12 apartment blocks in our picture above (Numbers 1 to 12), we

## Well-heeled targets suffer return visits by the professional thief

traced eight break-ins, all but one of them in the past year. The total number of burglaries, or attempted burglaries, in the 26 occupied blocks of flats, houses and hotels in numbers 1 to 39, was 18, most of them in the past year. Of the eight buildings which had not been burgled, six were hotels or hostels with staff on duty around the clock. Most of the burglaries appeared

to have been by professional thieves; only one was a quick snatch and grab raid. The robbers forced doors, often during daylight, and knew what to go for. As well as the usual items — CD players, jewellery, TV sets and videos — expensive clothes were taken. Very little of the property has been recovered.

In several cases the same flats were repeatedly broken into. The

only burglary of a hotel involved attempted entry of the accountant's office. Some of the break-ins were at perthouses. Since the burglaries, security in all the buildings has been tightened.

Some suffer more than most. At the PM club, a hostel for young people in the catering business, there have been four break-ins in the last five months. On February 9,

£600 was taken from a dormitory after burglars climbed scaffolding at the back of the building. Five days earlier a burglar was scared off by a sheep dog. In November last year, a mentally disturbed man broke into the kitchen but nothing was taken. Most extraordinarily, in October last year a burglar who tried to steal a large cassette recorder from the hotel's gym was stopped as he was leaving and lost from two other break-ins in the street was discovered in his bag.

## An area of rich pickings

Kensington police station in Earls Court Road, west London, covers one of the most transient populations in the city and some of the finest town houses. Within its borders the Earls Court exhibition centre is the national home for many shows, Kensington High Street is a main shopping centre and the area includes 50 diplomatic offices or residences and many hotels.

The station musters 171 officers to police a population of 43,000 including the residents of The Boltons, a sweep of elegant houses, blocks of service flats, mansion flats and streets of terraced houses converted into multi-occupancy. The police division includes the Iraqi, Israeli and Russian embassies and the London headquarters of three national companies.

A sizeable homosexual community centres on the Coleridge public house, close to Earls Court. This area, famous as a home for a shifting

the temporary home of other foreign visitors.

At any one time, there will be a minimum of ten police men on the streets of Kensington, rising to a maximum of 36, with five vehicles available for patrolling. There are few resident suspected criminals and therefore few that Chief Superintendent Peter Rice's CID team of 21 officers can target. The criminals home in on areas such as the exhibition centre where petty crime is rife. After a recent trade show there were 11 reported crimes.

The key problem for police is burglaries, especially in the multi-occupancy houses where criminals go from flat to flat. Small hotels are also the targets for theft. An Arab lost jewellery worth £90,000 from his bedside table.

Below is the police crime log for the area between 2am on Friday, January 29, and 2am the following Sunday:

**FRIDAY, January 29:**  
02.40: Earls Court Road SW5. Kebab shop. £50 from male porter, 28, as he paid for food, by young male who snatched cash.  
07.40-18.00: Cathcart Road SW10. Video worth £200 stolen from basement flat.  
07.50-17.15: Ifield Road SW10. Video and £440 silver bowl stolen. £200 damage in teacher's basement flat.  
10.00-14.15: Courtfield Road SW7. Three flats burgled. £400 video recorder, £50 cash and jewellery stolen. Two other empty flats entered.  
10.10: Collingham Gardens

SW5. Unoccupied top floor flat broken into via windows from roof.  
10.30-18.30: Holland Road W14. Camera and CD player worth £1,350 stolen from ground floor flat owned by baker's assistant, 23. Entry via window.  
11.00-15.30: Redcliffe Gardens SW10. First floor flat from door damaged, £100.  
11.00-18.20: Redcliffe Gardens SW10. "Clothing, Walkman, vanity case and others worth £500 stolen from flat rented by student.  
13.00-18.00: Kensington High Street. Handbag with

£250 stolen in clothes shop from Japanese woman.  
14.30-14.45: Kensington High Street. Underground parade W8. Two female shoplifters, aged 19, with baby in pram stole 11 pairs silk boxes, worth £175.  
14.30-16.10: Redcliffe Road SW10. £800 mobile phone stolen from H-reg Jaguar saloon.  
16.00: Kensington Road W8. £800 travellers cheques, £50 cash and Swf400 stolen from Chelsea student's bag on a bus.  
16.00: Earls Court W10. Outside Kensington police station. Criminal damage to taxi after dispute between cabbie and driver of Renault 5.  
16.30-16.50: Earls Court Exhibition Centre. Mobile phone, worth £300, taken.  
16.30-12.00: Astwood Mews SW7. Walkman, credit cards and address book stolen from first floor flat, via window.  
16.50-17.00: Earls Court Exhibition Centre. Stand at amusement exhibition. Mobile phone, worth £250, stolen.  
17.00-09.00: Emperors Gate SW7. £100, shoulder bag, kneeling pad and bible stolen from car, which might have been left with rear door unlocked.  
17.00-17.10: Earls Court Exhibition Centre. £200 mobile phone taken from toy stand.  
17.45-23.10: Phillimore Walk W8. £75 damage to window of H-reg black BMW owned by restaurant manager. Radio cassette stolen, dropped nearby, then crushed by passing car.  
17.47: Thistle Grove SW10. Handbag, credit cards and £25 cash from house. Occupant thought noise was partner returning. When did not appear, found burglary. Male seen making off down road.  
19.00-20.30: Earls Court Road SW5. Night club. Handbag worth £60 stolen from occupational therapist.  
19.15-19.30: Gloucester Road

SW5. Passport, purse and cash, worth £500 stolen from tourist, in restaurant.  
19.30-22.00: Hogarth Place SW5. Kings Head pub. Case and bag worth £200 stolen.  
08.00: Earls Court Road SW5. Public house. Handbag worth £90 taken.  
21.45: Fulham Road wine bar SW10. Actual bodily harm. Drunk male solicitor fight with woman. Arrested later for another offence. Bailed till Feb 18.  
22.30-23.20: Gloucester Road SW7. Hereford Arms pub. Handbag worth £30 stolen.  
**SATURDAY, January 30:**  
01.00: Courtfield Gardens SW5. TV, Hi-Fi and wine worth £1,340 stolen since 07.30 on Friday from basement flat. Front door smashed in and second flat also entered.  
01.30-07.45: Earls Court Square SW5. Hotel. Three air tickets and £1,280 travellers cheques taken from room.  
02.00: Vicarage Gate W8. Tall slim man, 35, runs from taxi without paying £13 fare.  
02.45: Gloucester Road SW7. Male, 24, arrested after breaking into off-licence, stealing £150 alcohol.  
04.10: Ifield Road SW10. £300 car stereo, stolen and £60 window damage to H-reg black BMW.  
05.30: Earls Court SW5. Attempted burglary; student, 19, disturbed and suspect fled.  
07.00: Earls Court youth hostel SW10. £1,000 cash stolen from Columbian, 23, sometime from 21.30 Friday.  
07.20: Earls Court Exhibition Centre. Toys worth £50 taken from west London company sometime from 16.00 Friday.  
10.00-10.30: Australian tourist reports camera stolen.  
11.50: Kensington High Street. W8. Restaurant. Handbag worth £30 stolen from student.  
13.10 to 13.20: Earls Court Exhibition Centre. £300 mobile phone stolen.  
13.29: Cranley Gardens SW7.

Attempted burglary at flat; suspects fled when challenged.  
13.30: Kensington High Street. W8. Record shop. Tapes worth £50 taken. Two arrested, later released with caution.  
14.10: Collingham Road SW5. Tyre of blue A-reg Vauxhall Cavalier slashed sometime overnight.  
15.00-16.00: Kensington High Street. G-reg Honda motorcycle stolen.  
15.45-15.48: Kensington High Street. W8. Shop. Purse stolen.  
17.10: Kensington High Street. W8. Shoe shop. £70 handbag stolen as woman tried on shoes.  
19.15-22.30: Cromwell Road SW5. Alarm clock, clothes and £37 video tape stolen from hotel.  
19.30-22.30: Cornwall Gardens SW7. Radio cassette and mobile phone worth £1,500 stolen and £180 window damage to H-reg white Mercedes.  
19.30: Earls Court Exhibition Centre. Bag stolen from organiser's office since 19.35 Friday.  
19.35: Collingham Road SW5. Would-be male burglar arrested.  
20.15: Eldon Road W8. Attempted burglary; suspect made off after disturbing couple in their forties.  
20.30-21.00: Fulham Road SW10. Restaurant. Handbag worth £225 stolen.  
**Overnight crime reported Sunday, January 31:**  
08.00: Neveon Road SW5. Car lock forced, since 16.00 Saturday.  
08.45: Sunday London Regional Transport car park Eagle Place SW7. £489 radio cassette stolen. £200 window damage to G-reg grey BMW. Sometime after 17.00 on Saturday.  
10.30: Lexham Mews W8. £90 security night stick stolen and £150 window damage to B-reg green Range Rover. Sometime since 18.00 Saturday.



## Alan Coren



■ For an imaginative child I had a pretty good war, full of voluptuous thighs

In my younger days, you would not have found me in a Kremlin wardrobe. You would have found me in a Baluchistan go-down, the hawk-eyed face above my jellaba varnished with Cherry Blossom and a covert Webley hanging between my legs on a thin thong; this being one of the big pluses of Baluchi couture, if you were a secret agent. In order to find me there, mind, you would have had to look into my daydreams, even as I was looking out of them towards the playground where the sixth-form girls were locked in netball; this being one of the big pluses of state co-education, if you were a daydreamer. For while your major preoccupation was thwarting an international conspiracy, your minor one was invariably negotiating an international seductress with voluptuous thighs, and how could you assess what you were up against unless you knew what a voluptuous thigh looked like? God knows how public schoolboys coped. I suppose their daydreams involved a look-forward with Mata Hari's face, which may go some way towards explaining almost anything.

I did not work in Baluchistan for long. By the time I was 12, Buchan had yielded to the cinema, which regularly dropped me into occupied France. This improved the daydreams no end: I didn't have to black up or wear a sheet. I had a terrific little radio in a suitcase. I got to blow up all kinds of stuff, viaducts, factories, Gestapo HQs, and I could graduate from a Webley to a Sten, which enabled me to mow down whole platoons. There were, however, no voluptuous thighs; they did not have these in France. That is because, in France, the girls were on your side, and wore sensible skirts; the closest they ever came to seduction was when you were hiding in a haystack and the Germans wanted to poke bayonets into it, whereupon the girls would cycle up and ask the Germans what time they got off duty. This distraction was good news for you but bad news for the Germans, because when they did get off duty and went to meet the girls on the off chance that the sensible skirts concealed voluptuous thighs, the girls shot them, because they had Sten guns, too.

I had a pretty good Cold War, after that. I was an imaginative child, even at 30, and as I had by then taken up a writing career, the opportunities for starting out of the window had increased enormously. The daydreams, moreover, could now be offered polarised stances: on the one hand, I got to drive an Aston-Martin, subside on dry Martini and run up a tally of voluptuous thighs which left Busby Berkeley at the post; while, on the other, I could throw myself into the cold — clapped-out, bitter, thighless, and thus in a wonderful position to luxuriate, like Hamlet, in that egocentric cynicism granted only to those lucky few for whom all is for the worst in the worst of all possible worlds.

Not, I happily believed, was there any reason why this enjoyable wool-gathering need ever end. When the time came, I would dream myself into George Smiley, half-owl, half-fox, superannuated perhaps from gun and thigh alike but nevertheless a force still to be reckoned and identified with, should Ivan war terrible. There, indeed, was the crux of it: for more than anything else, it was always the frightfulness of the adversary which made the game worth the candle. Which brings me, at last, to Yevgeni Gubkov.

Major Gubkov of the KGB has done what four decades of adversarial precedent never could: he has driven me out of the service. Five years the bodyguard of Mikhail Gorbachev, Gubkov last week went public. He split his beans. He did not want to spill them, because a Russian doesn't need to any more. He went to the papers; but he split only one or two, as *bonne bouche* for his forthcoming book. Did you read what he split? It seems he had his ear to the Gorbachevs' bedroom wall when Raisa told Mikhail to change his socks, because they didn't match his tie. Mikhail didn't want to change his socks, because that would mean keeping Margaret Thatcher waiting. But that was exactly what Raisa wanted, because she suspected Mikhail of toying with the idea of voluptuous thighs. Mikhail changed his socks. The rest is history.

But is it such stuff as dreams are made on? If this is what the KGB has become, and if these are its state secrets, I say the hell with it.



ANOTHER NATIONAL TREASURE GOES TO AMERICA

# Brainwashed by hysteria

Building borstals that cost more to run than Eton is no cure for youth crime and will turn petty crooks into villains

So Britain is in a state of moral crisis. Juvenile crime is out of control. Young people no longer know the difference between right and wrong. Parliament must give them a short, sharp shock, or at least the benefit of another Criminal Justice Act. Such regular onsets of national moralising tend to have me packing my bags and heading for the hills. The earnest politicians go mad. Otherwise liberal souls are forced into a Cultural Revolution: they must walk the streets in dunce's caps, salivating prejudice, vomiting statistics, abusing history and talking arrant nonsense. As for the media, to bear it pontificating on moral standards has me flat on the carpet and gasping for air. Narrow is the no man's land between us mortals and the beasts of the jungle.

Two weeks ago there was a tragic case of child murder in Liverpool. As with the Dennis Nilsen and Mary Bell murders, the British public — or its spokesmen — appears unable to accept these incidents as exceptional. They must be extrapolated and projected onto a vast ethical screen before which public figures can prance and vie with each other in damnable language. Even Labour's normally sensible Tony Blair has this week felt obliged to indulge in a Dutch auction of synthetic toughness.

I hoped the prime minister might stay aloof. But no. What can have possessed him to respond to the Bulger case by remarking on Sunday, "We should condemn a little more, understand a little less"? What lesson in clear-thinking does that teach the young as they struggle with his new curriculum? Does he want them to react that way to every tough political question: more knee-jerk less thought? To Maastricht perhaps?

The media has now had a week of slavering over every detail of the Liverpool murder. The killing of children by children is rare but it does happen most months somewhere in Britain, to be reported only in the local press. Usually the cause is an accident during bullying or even just play, a victim becoming hysterical and the attacker panicking. To point this out is not to excuse a crime, as John Major implied, but neither is it a comment on "all children these days" or on "society as a whole". It is just very sad for those involved. Are we really so primitive that we cannot treat these exceptions as such, but must summon the home secretary, Kenneth Clarke, and lecture him on the virtues of the birch, the gallows, castration and the dungeon?

There is no evidence of some new juvenile crime wave in Britain. There is merely a mass of assertion based on anecdote. A small medal for courage against the forces of darkness should go to the Tory MP, Sir John Wheeler, for daring last Saturday to question a set of crime figures (on rapes since 1945) fit only for the dustbin, shrieked at him by an innumerate BBC interviewer. Sir John kept asking the man to calm down. The interviewer hyperventilated and screamed, "But the figures must be true: they're in the *Daily Mail*." So low has the Corporation sunk!

The Home Office recently announced that between 1985 and 1991 the number of males under-18 cautioned or convicted of an offence in England and Wales fell from 219,000 to 149,000. "Known offenders" under the age of 14 fell by 43 per cent. Only half of these falls were attributable to the fall in the size of the age group. Most readers brainwashed by the past week's news will assume that I have just said water flows uphill. It has not. ("Reported crime" may have gone up but, as readers of this column know, such crime has no statistical relevance to real crime measuring only a small part of it.)

Had these figures shown a rise in the criminal population they would have been headline without qualification. Yet they showed a fall. They were therefore qualified to the point of dismissal: the police must be cautioning less; they are fed up with soft magistrates; the figures ignore persistent offenders. They could not be right because they did not conform to the preconception. They suggested that there might be no crisis. And for most adults the idea that British youth is not passing through a constant "moral crisis" is psychologically intolerable.

Perhaps I suffer from invented prejudice, but I find the moral self-righteousness of age even worse than the pompous iconoclasm of youth. Each generation seems to excuse its own

inadequacy by claiming that the next is less caring, less intelligent, more ugly, more criminal. Evidence to the contrary must be fanily. This defiance only becomes pernicious when it turns to false policy. Every three or four years, weak home secretaries come up with some new idea for "getting tough with the young". As a result Britain incarcerates more young people than any other country in Europe. It is the one area of spending which the Treasury does not validate by any test of performance. The most active Home Office unit must be the one entitled "Crazy ideas for appeasing hangers and floggers".

Thus we have had borstals and approved schools. We have had young offenders' institutions and short sharp shock camps. We have had secure homes. All share two characteristics: they are fantastically expensive. £2,000 a week in some cases, and every study shows them to be worse than useless. Lord Whitelaw's "short sharp shock" institutions, which won him a Tory conference ovation in 1979, lasted barely five years. Apart from the millions that ovation cost the taxpayer, the additional thefts by graduates of his academics must have cost their victims billions. (Since this was predicted at the time somebody should sue the Home Office.)

I am wary of generalisation but experience suggests that the more costly the punishment of a given type of offender, the higher the likelihood of reoffence. Roughly 20-30 per cent of young people reoffend following a police caution; 50-60 per cent following community orders of various sorts; and 80-90 per cent following imprisonment. Prisons propagate crime (see Roger Graef's new book *Living Dangerously*). Criminal training is one of the few triumphs of state education. Mr Clarke's promised borstals will cost more than Eton, and few of its graduates will fail in their chosen careers. For the taxpayer, the deal is an appalling one.

One of the reasons given for the recent

fall in the number of juvenile offenders is the refusal by magistrates to send so many to prison. The most cost-effective way of countering teenage crime appears to be preventative social work in the community and probation and through voluntary institutions and specialised fostering. A handful of persistent young offenders may slip through the net — every police force has its rogue's gallery — and the Criminal Justice Act may need tightening accordingly. But a sensible policy seems to have been coming good in lower reoffending.

These remedies are now being cut back, cynics might say because they are not run by Whitehall and ministers cannot claim credit for them. Localism is out of fashion. Nationalisation is back. When the home secretary wants to build more prisons, in this case reviving the failed borstals, there is money galore. His remedy is both the most expensive and the least effective.

There are no cures for crime, least of all crime committed by underemployed and bored children. We might make it less easy. By leaving our most treasured movable possession, our car, unguarded in the street we offer youths a temptation offered to few of their parents. This temptation accounts for 80 per cent of all crime. "In the good old days" there was simply not so much to steal. Whether there were more or fewer putative thieves is an unanswerable question.

Criminality is still abnormal in Britain. Robust, confident communities learn to understand and encompass such abnormality, not greet it with bowls of impotence. An elected leader's duty is to counsel a sense of proportion. In most parts of the country this should not be a Herculean task. But the necessary discipline must come from supporting and promoting links between families, schools and neighbourhoods and the police, probation and remedial institutions. Relying on the central state as formal agent of teenage discipline is, bluntly, communist. Imprisoning every petty thief or reckless youngster is an admission of defeat.

Putting young people in prison clearly exaggerates the genetic or environmental factors that turn them to crime. It converts small-time miscreants into villains. Prison institutionalises them and invites their challenge. Mr Major and Mr Clarke are apparently ready to take that risk. They will grant the public its retribution on the young. If the result is more criminals, too bad.

## Lawyers, libel and liberty

Anthony Lewis on a landmark for free speech

It is of the highest public importance that a democratically elected governmental body, or indeed any governmental body, should be open to uninhibited public criticism. The quotation might come from a decision of the United States Supreme Court protecting freedom of speech, or of the press, under the First Amendment to the American Constitution. In fact it was made by Lord Keith of Kinkel in his judgment, announced last Thursday, in the libel case of *Derbyshire County Council v Times Newspapers*.

The Lords held that local authorities or government departments may not bring actions for libel, even if their critics make mistakes. As a point of law, it was a striking decision. But there is a far greater radiating potential in the judgment. In emphasising the public interest in freedom of critical speech, the Law Lords seemed to me to take a significant step toward the American view of free speech — bridging a gap that has long existed between our two cultures.

The difference was defined in 1798 by James Madison, the author of the First Amendment. That year the Federalist Party, which controlled Congress and the presidency, pushed through a Sedition Act on the model of the English seditious libel law making it a crime to publish false critical comments about the president or Congress. The intention of the Federalists was to silence opposition newspapers, supporters of Vice President Thomas Jefferson, in the run-up to the presidential election of 1800.

Madison said the Sedition Act violated the First Amendment "because it is levelled against the right of freely examining public characters and measures". The new American republic, he said, was "altogether different" from Britain in its theory of government. In Britain, the crown was sovereign and the people were subjects. In America, "the people, not the government, possess the absolute sovereignty". It followed that the people must be able to criticise those whom they chose as their temporary governors. The constitutionality of the Sedition Act was never decided. But the Jeffersonians denounced it in the campaign of 1800, and they won. Jefferson was elected president, the Federalist Party faded away and the United States was on its course of free speech.

In the 1920s a famously corrupt mayor of Chicago, William Hale Thompson, tried to silence his critics by having the city sue *The Chicago Tribune* for libel. The Illinois Supreme Court threw the suit out, saying "libel on government" had no place "in the American system of jurisprudence".

In 1964 came the defining libel decision in the US Supreme Court, *New York Times v Sullivan*. Alabama officials had sued the *New York Times* over an advertisement criticising officials in the south for using brutal tactics against the civil rights movement. Justice William J. Brennan Jr agreed with Madison that it was unconstitutional. The First Amendment, he said, established the principle that "debate on public issues should be uninhibited".

Fear of libel damage awards would chill "the citizen-critic of government" if he were required "to guarantee the truth of all his factual assertions." Justice Brennan said. Accordingly, the court held that a public official (later "public figures") could recover libel damages only by proving that someone had made a false statement about him knowingly or recklessly. Lord Keith, in the *Derbyshire* case, used the same adjective as Justice Brennan, "uninhibited". He cited the *Chicago* case and *New York Times v Sullivan*, and warned against "the chilling effect" of the threat of libel actions.

All that represented a different judicial attitude — a different culture — from the one that informed major House of Lords decisions on issues of free speech and a free press over the last 20 years. In the *thalamidomide* case, for example, the Lords held that a *Sunday Times* investigation of the causes and consequences of a drug tragedy would be contempt of court if published because the public interest in knowing the facts must yield to orderly judicial procedure. In the *Spycatcher* case they paid such deference to official secrecy that they kept the British public from reading what the rest of the world knew.

In the *Derbyshire* case Britain's highest court for the first time saw free speech about public matters as a dominant interest, one that must prevail even over a substantial claim of damage to reputations. The court understood that in a democratic society newspapers must be allowed to make mistakes without the fear that will silence them. For the first time in an important modern case the press vindicated the right to publish without having to go to the European Court of Human Rights.

Of course there remain many uniquely English restraints on freedom to speak and publish. When a British politician brings a libel action, the defendant still has the burden of proving truth — which can be difficult, Lord Keith noted, even when the challenged statement is in fact true. The law of confidence and contempt, the Official Secrets Act, the readiness of judges to issue injunctions against publication, all these are alien to American law. But the *Derbyshire* decision gives hope to those who believe in freedom.

Anthony Lewis is author of *Make No Law: The Sullivan Case and the First Amendment*.

## Look back on anger

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, has spoken out. John Major and Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, have condemned violence as one. But one elder statesman has seen it all before.

On October 20, 1974, the then shadow home secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, told the Birmingham Conservative Association that "problem children" were being born to poor mothers, who were the "least fitted to bring children into the world and bring them up". He went on to provoke liberal fury by encouraging the extension of birth control to these mothers, saying that it was the "lesser evil". The worship of instinct, of spontaneity, the reflection of self-discipline, is not progress — it is degeneration.

Nineteen years on, Lord Joseph is convalescing in hospital after a minor stroke and unable to update his remarks. But he will be relieved to hear that Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead who, as director of the Child Poverty Action Group in 1974, attacked Joseph's speech as "bearing all the hallmarks of whipping up a campaign against the poor", has

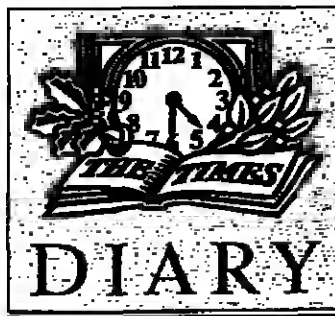
mellowed. "Because I know him now I would not denounce him as I did then," Field says. "He has a gift for asking awkward questions that few people have these days."

Aside from Field, who believes that it "does matter that most children do not know who their fathers are", Joseph has some loyal fans. Mary Whitehouse, whom Joseph described in his 1974 speech as "that admirable woman", says the "reacceptance of basic Christian values" points the way forward. "A lot of what Keith Joseph said has come true. He was something of a prophet in that sense. But like most prophets he was not listened to by his own generation."

### Screen Test

GRAHAM Gooch, whose team yesterday distinguished itself by losing the Test series against India 3-0, will soon be slinking back to England. But what a different story it was 56 years ago when Gubby Allen returned home from his unsuccessful tour of Australia.

Just how different should become apparent next week when an album of Allen's photographs is



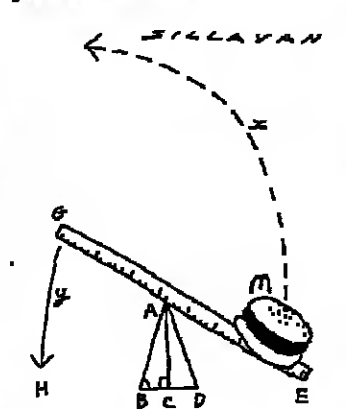
auctioned. The album, to be auctioned by Dreweatts Neate, reveals a different class of cricketer altogether, with Allen greeted by armfuls of Hollywood's major stars. The photographs, from March 1937, show Allen in a variety of exotic locations. One, on Paramount Studios' set of *The Blue Angel*, shows Allen standing next to Marlene Dietrich and Herbert Marshall. Another shows a golfing Allen with Basil Rathbone, Raymond Massey, Nigel Bruce and David Niven at the "Riviera Country Club". Certainly beats *Question of Sport*.

● All the latest in designer clothing, polo shirts, tracksuits, T-shirts and sweaters are on their way from Strathclyde regional council to children in Bosnia. There is only one snag. The clothes

are counterfeit. They are the fruits of a series of raids by trading standards officials on warehouses in Glasgow and East Kilbride. The council won a court case enabling it to donate the illegal but fake copies to the Children in Need Bosnian charity.

### Dough levels

THE battle of the burger has moved from the high street to the classroom. Following the news that the hamburger chain Burger King is to open the Burger King Academy in London's East End comes word that McDonald's, its biggest competitor, is to launch a teaching package for 14 to 16-year-olds.



The packs, for teenagers studying GCSE science and technology subjects, include exercises for children and notes for teachers. As well as "data sheets" there are practical exercises for the students. All the exercises are written by teachers and involve an aspect of the hamburger business.

One shows the production process of "French fries"; another encourages children to conduct their own research into the hamburger market. Cramming will never be the same again.

### Trade booster

DIGSWELL, the cartoon dog from outer space, met Tarzan from the Board of Trade yesterday to receive a pat on the head for boosting British exports. With licensing deals for Digswell, created by the Midlands-based Storm Group, topping £5 million in the United States the dog is a rare success story for industry. Michael Heseltine met the soft toy version of the pooch, who became the first animated character to be launched into space last year, at the DTI offices in Birmingham.

Dog-loving Heseltine, who took time off from launching a European business initiative in Birmingham, was impressed. "Did he really go up in space? He

looks very healthy for it," he said — just a touch wistfully?

### Classical gas

THE dash for gas may cost Britain its coal industry, but it's doing great things for the nation's contemporary music. The London Festival Orchestra, whose summer tour has been sponsored by British Gas for the last eight years, is to play a specially commissioned work by the composer John Tavener at a world premiere in St Paul's Cathedral in May. The piece, *Hymns of Paradise*, will open the LFO's summer festival of music in cathedrals, *Cathedral Classics*.

Ross Pople, the LFO director, who commissioned the work, says: "Tavener knows exactly what he wants to write, and how he wants it to sound." Tavener, who is still only 49, has produced a vast body of work including *The Protecting Veil*, which last year did for him what the third symphony has done more recently for Henryk Gorecki. The Very Rev Eric Evans, Dean of St Paul's, hopes that British Gas will prosper sufficiently to continue its sponsorship. "All the fuss over the coal mines makes us rather schizophrenic, as we want British Gas to do well, and we wish no diminution to its profits."





## PRESENT IMPERFECT

Myths of national decline disguise the real political agenda

To cry *O tempora, O mores* is to voice an ancient instinct. Every age perceives decline, degeneracy and moral entropy, and harks back to an idealised golden era of manners and prosperity. Although its roots are different, the moral panic besetting the nation in 1993 is no different in spirit to the outrage of Cicero or the strictures of Gibbon.

Today the nostalgia industry is fortified as never before by the indulgence of the mass media and the poverty of memory. Since the tragic death of two-year-old James Bulger a week and a half ago, the flow of jeremiads has been steady. A Gallup poll of 1,000 adults published this week claimed that almost half of all Britons would like to emigrate, so great is their disenchantment with the nation. Most seemed to think that standards had been markedly higher 20-30 years ago.

It is, perhaps, uncharitable to look too closely at the years between 1963 and 1973 cited as so halcyon in the Gallup survey. In education, this was the high season of the Plowden Report, of dubious doctrine in the classroom and anti-competitive teaching. Race relations were tainted by the resurgence of Mosleyism. More than 60 per cent of the 1993 sample believed that the politicians of the 1960s were "moderate and sensible" compared to today's lacklustre shower. How quickly the Profumo affair and Enoch Powell's "Rivers of Blood" speech have slipped from the collective memory. And how cavalier the dismissal of social gains since 1963 such as the radical improvements in equal opportunities for women. If there is such a thing as a popular mood, it is brazenly economical with the truth.

Today we are staring at a predictable future in *fin de siècle* life. The 1890s had epidemic syphilis, deep racial insecurity (symbolised by Gordon's defeat at Khartoum in 1885) and unemployment, described as such for the first time. The 1990s have Aids, persistent young offenders, and still find grim use for the term unemployment. Though Britannia wears her own distinctive sackcloth and ashes, pessimism has become almost *communautaire*. For every poll revealing British gloom there is another to show that Gallic *morosité* and German *Angst* are yet more pronounced. Those Britons who seek solace in other lands may find themselves no better off, for moral panic respects no national boundaries.

The doom-mongers of '93, stirred by the deeper fear of the millennium, tread the same fearful territory as William Booth, whose *In Darkest England* was published 103 years ago, and Conrad, who wrote of England as "one of the dark places of the world". As the century careers towards the buffers, there is a fear that all will be called to account and found wanting. What the critic Frank Kermode has called "the sense of an ending" pervades contemporary Western culture, as it has many times before.

The lessons of history can be a consolation at a time of moral instability, therefore. Each generation must accept that its self-loathing is perfectly commonplace. Each must also, however, examine the uncomfortable detail of its malaise and ask what makes each *annus horribilis* distinctive, how its anguish differs from that of the past, and what lessons it can draw.

Certainly, the mood of British optimism which characterised the boom years of the 1980s has faded faster than its architects ever dreamed. Aspirations awoken by the liberalising policies of the Thatcher decade were quickly frustrated by recession, political incompetence and popular impatience with stultified reform. The hubris of the Lawson

boom still awaits its nemesis.

Underpinning the current burst of panic is a fear that the traditional institutions of authority face extinction. Last week's General Synod meeting paraded fissures in the Church which if anything seem deeper than they were last November when the assembly approved the ordination of women priests. Fear of youthful lawlessness has forced the government to suspend the penal philosophy of the Criminal Justice Act and introduce new detention centres for persistent young offenders — which will take them off the streets but may also strengthen their determination to reoffend. The institution of the family is more ramshackle than ever, in spite of Margaret Thatcher's efforts to make it the heart of her philosophy. And an education system which unashamedly teaches right and wrong still seems a distant prospect.

Church, law, family, education: each pillar has its own rottenness. Each totters in the face of surging anti-authoritarianism and failing deference. Teenagers were told to be self-reliant in 1983. But the government did less to break their dependence on the state than it pretended to. The genuine widening of opportunity, liberation of the individual and unleashing of enterprise which have won the Conservatives four successive elections mean little to a listless underclass of joyriders, single parents and homeless people.

Some political observers predict the coming of a new Leviathan to plug this gap in authority. But there are more immediate political strategies for the government to adopt in the face of moral alarm. In his Carlton Club speech this month the prime minister sought a nation "at ease with itself" and declared himself opposed to the division of the country into those who enjoy improving living standards and those who wallow in long-term unemployment, crime and misery. That affirmation must be the basis of much more.

Making welfare conditional upon participation in work schemes is not an aim that should be discarded after one day's bad publicity. Mr Major's interest in workfare suggested a proper determination to translate his belief in "the cohesion of society" into policy. This is the necessary corollary of his promise last weekend to "condemn [criminals] a little more, understand a little less".

The prime minister is not a convincing authoritarian. Where the government could begin to make a difference is to show some true authority — some sense that its actions are tempered by humility, integrity, and a purpose beyond a desire to hold power. Instead, however, we see continuing signs of shift and drift. This week's examples include the blaming of the Tory party chairman, Norman Fowler, for the alleged collusion of the Home Office with Republican party officials to undermine Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. To have left the resolution of this affair until the day of Mr Major's American trip is incompetent. To claim that it was all the party chairman's fault is less than statesmanlike.

To promote that which is best in his government and preserve that which is best in the nation, the prime minister must above all respect the etiquette which binds them together. His mounting disdain for Parliament — evident in the curtailment of Monday night's debate on the Maastricht treaty — suggests that he has not yet learnt this lesson. But these are the first political building blocks of the long reconstruction he must undertake. To borrow Wordsworth's phrase, the nation now longs for a past unsighted for and a future sure.

## STEEL CURTAIN

Western Europe must not lock out eastern steel

European industry ministers meet tomorrow to address the worst crisis the European steel industry has faced since the second world war. Instead of curbing subsidies, identifying the plants that have to be closed down and producing a strict timetable for reform, they are likely to settle for a still sketchy plan of action drawn up by the European Commission.

This is not enough. The capacity cuts put forward by the Commission are almost certain to discriminate against relatively efficient producers, like British Steel, and to prop up chronic loss makers in Italy. Closing down a steel plant is a highly sensitive political decision and it is thus the politicians, rather than the industrialists, who will have their hands on the knife. British Steel may have had its work force from 250,000 in the 1970s to just 42,000 today, but that is unlikely to weigh heavily with the other European producer states.

Most disturbing of all is the clear trend towards protecting the west European market from east European steel imports. The chief area of agreement between the European Commission and the European steel barons is that serious curbs should be placed on the steel coming from Poland, the Czech and Slovak republics, and Hungary. Whether or not the new barriers are erected by limiting quantities or fixing minimum prices, a new iron curtain is to be built.

A more short-sighted approach could hardly be imagined. Central European imports make up barely 3 per cent of the total European community steel market. The eastern industries benefit from cheap labour, undervalued currencies and the lack of domestic demand. Unlike west European steel concerns they have been embarking on serious and difficult reforms. Steel output in eastern Europe has fallen by a half and

employment by a third since the 1989 revolutions. Such restructuring should be encouraged by the West. Instead, as the eastern producers scramble to replace the defunct Soviet market and they struggle with privatisation, the West puts up fresh barriers.

The European Community Association agreements signed with Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary were supposed to liberalise the steel trade. Barely a year later, the Community has shown itself to be without vision or resolve. The central Europeans know that what is happening to steel now could equally well happen to electronics or other sophisticated imports in the future.

It is scarcely in the long-term interests of the West to freeze the East out of its market. Sooner or later mass unemployment will destabilise the new democracies. Anti-European voices can be heard in all the central European parliaments. And it is to the West that the unemployed steel workers of central Europe will march in search of work. Steel was at the historical core of the Community. It has now become a testing ground for the new Europe. In his Banbury speech at the weekend, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, indicated that the government's priority after 1996 was to smooth the entry of central Europe into the Community. His call for a radical opening of markets, in spite of the recession, maps out the only sensible course.

Sincere steel reformers should stop making a scapegoat out of eastern Europe. There must be strict restrictions on subsidies, with exceptions limited only to those plants cutting their capacity enough to have a real effect on the market. A clear legal framework has to be devised for production and delivery quotas. Above all a formula must be found that allows the most efficient producers to survive and the least efficient to close down.

## Tories' role in US elections

From Sir Nicholas Henderson

Sir, It was inexpedient of officials from the Tory party to become involved in any way in the US presidential election campaign (report, February 23). But the following are reasons for thinking that what has happened will not seriously damage the US-UK relationship or that between Clinton and Major.

1. On December 4, 1992, Clinton wrote to Major: "I place a high premium on the historic and special relationship between the USA and Britain. I look forward to establishing strong personal relations. Neither of our countries can achieve its objectives in the world unless we are closely tied." Clinton asked that this letter be released to the press. This does not suggest any undue offence taken.

2. Major will be the first European head of government to visit President Clinton — who would scarcely have extended the invitation to him if he was in disfavour.

3. Relations between the White House, the State Department and the Pentagon on the one hand and British authorities on the other since January 20 have been excellent, and there have been no complaints relating to the election campaign.

4. The US-UK relationship is not based on ideological affinity between leaders — otherwise Churchill would not have hit it off so well with Franklin Roosevelt or Mrs Thatcher have established her bond with the USA under Jimmy Carter.

Yours faithfully,

ROGER LYONS,

General Secretary, Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union,

64-66 Wandsworth Common

North Side, SW18.

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## Power watchdog to probe generators' profit margins



Littlechild: profit watch

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ASSAULT on the profit margins of Britain's two generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, has been signalled by Professor Stephen Littlechild, head of Oftec, the electricity industry regulator. The director general has asked for additional information from the companies and will examine their costs and profit margins.

In addition, he plans to tighten regulatory rules under which regional electricity supply companies (Ress), are obliged to make the most "economic" purchases of power. The initiatives, unveiled in his final report on the growing displacement of coal-fired power plants by gas stations, reveal a significant shift in the regulator's

attitude towards failings in the power market. An interim study, in December, suggested that the move away from coal, which underlies British Coal's plan to shut 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 miners' jobs, would lead to lower power prices for consumers.

The latest report, while confirming Professor Littlechild's view that past power-buying decisions were justified, acknowledges criticisms of earlier calculations and appears notably more favourable to the coal industry. He makes clear his belief that the pressures behind the switch from coal into gas have eased, and will do so further. "The indications are that gas prices have moved up and that coal prices have moved down,"

Highlighting the combined 70 per cent market share of the two genera-

tors, Professor Littlechild said only by building gas plants could regional companies escape the duopoly. But "it would be undesirable if the structure of the industry, or the conduct of the major generators, put undue pressure on the Res to promote new entry at the expense of costs," he added.

Although he had no power to control the generators' prices, Professor Littlechild said he could seek additional powers from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, or trigger an MMC enquiry, if not satisfied. National Power and PowerGen criticised the report's analysis, but said they would co-operate with enquiries into their profitability. "We are confident that they will conclude that we are acting reasonably in the interests of our customers and shareholders," said a

PowerGen statement. Despite the acknowledged shortcomings in the power market by the cross-party industry select committee, and now by Professor Littlechild, signs are growing that most ministers are reluctant to tackle them, preferring a sticking plaster solution to the coal crisis.

The generators have said they can buy an extra 40 million tonnes of coal over the next five years, but no more. That would mean 200 million tonnes, the same amount as in the past three years, and which led to stockpiling. The impasse has delayed publication of the white paper, originally expected tomorrow, which is to set out a strategy of saving some of the jobs under threat. The cabinet is not now expected to review the options until March 4 at the earliest.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## BAe shares fall on cut in half-time dividend

BRITISH Aerospace, which is due to report full-year results today, yesterday declared a half-year dividend for 1992 of 3p a share, a cut from the 8.9p declared for the first half of 1991. The 3p payout is as expected at the time of the £1 billion restructuring announced in September.

At the time of the restructuring and the half-year figures, British Aerospace said the dividend would be paid late. It has required both approval from shareholders and the courts. It also had to be declared before the final results, hence the announcement yesterday. The shares fell 9p to 252p on the news. Analysts expect a £1 billion loss for the year, including a £200 million trading deficit, but forecast a recovery in 1993 profits to £100 million or more. British Aerospace recently announced a £4 billion extension to the Al Yamamah contract with Saudi Arabia, which was said to secure 19,000 jobs. The deal was to build 48 Tornado aircraft and is one of the largest ever export contracts won by a British company.

## Allied Radio loss grows

ALLIED Radio, formed in 1991 with the merger of Radio Mercury and County Sound, the commercial radio groups, made a pre-tax loss of £1.72 million in the nine months to end-September, on turnover of £4.55 million. This is the first report from Allied incorporating a full contribution from Radio Mercury and County Sound and compares with a taxable loss of £1.57 million the previous year after a change of year-end. Losses were exacerbated by an exceptional charge of £181,000, relating to reorganisation costs. The loss per share is cut to 3.4p (23.8p loss). Allied said the new financial year had started well, with both local and national airtime revenue in the first quarter ahead of last time.

## Baldwin buys chain

BALDWIN, the leisure group, has bought the Muswell's cafe-bar-restaurant chain from Allied-Lyons, the brewer, for £2.65 million. Baldwin, which owns the Simpsons of Cornwall restaurant group, is acquiring 27 Muswell's sites, mainly in the South and South East of England. In the year to March 31, 1992, Muswell's made losses before tax of £483,000. Sandy Singh, Baldwin chief executive, said the acquisition would help the group to expand its brand name restaurant business "and further endorse Baldwin's determination to be a market leader in what it believes to be the growth sector of the industry."

## Hewitt lifts payout

HEWITT Group is raising its total dividend to 3p (2.5p) a share, with a proposed 1.75p (1.5p) final, as the industrial ceramics and refractories maker continued its recovery with a 35 per cent advance in full-year profits. A strong performance in the fourth quarter helped the Stoke-on-Trent company lift pre-tax profits from £525,000 to £832,000 in the year to end-December, on turnover up 4.6 per cent to £7.76 million. Profits were boosted by an exceptional gain of £98,000. Earnings rose to 14.8p a share, up from 11.4p last time. Hewitt shares firmed 5p to 188p.

## Admiral flies higher

ADMIRAL, the computing services group, continued to make sound progress, despite tough trading conditions. Increased market share and new customers helped pre-tax profits advance 14.8 per cent to £3.99 million in the year to end-December, on turnover ahead 18.3 per cent to £30.9 million. The final dividend is being raised to 3.7p (3.3p), making an increased total of 5.4p (4.8p) for the year. Earnings climbed 10.5 per cent to 24.2p (21.9p) a share. Admiral's year-end cash stood at £4.4 million. The shares firmed 4p to 474p.

## Unipart sets record

EMPLOYEES of Unipart, the car parts group, were credited with producing record profits last year. John Neill, chief executive, reported pre-tax profits up to £19.8 million from £15.4 million, and said Unipart, which was privatised via a management-led buyout in 1987, attributed much of its success to the approach it had taken in involving and motivating staff. Sales jumped to £661.4 million from £566.7 million, largely thanks to a contract with Land-Rover. He said: "We have for many years taken a long-term view and invested heavily in our people and our business."

## Porvair advances

ACQUISITIONS and a lower interest charge helped boost profits at Porvair, the company that makes microporous textiles and materials for industry, by 20 per cent to £2 million. Turnover rose from £16.7 million to £17.9 million in the year to end-November, with £1 million from Accumatic Filtration and Polyfilitronics, acquired during the year. The pre-tax line benefited from interest savings of £0.16 million due to the rights issue last February, and a £0.2 million contribution from new businesses. Porvair's total dividend is 3.6p, up 13 per cent. Earnings per share were 11.6p against 10.5p.

## British Vita expands

BRITISH Vita is expanding its North American foam manufacturing operations with two acquisitions totalling £4.5 million. Vita is buying the assets and goodwill of Nabors Manufacturing Company, a business with turnover of £8 million and based in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Vita is a supplier to Nabors and the acquisition will extend Vita's coverage to locations in North Carolina and Mississippi. In the second deal, Vitafoam Products Canada, is buying the assets and business of Pre Fab Cushioning Products, a £10 million (£5.46 million) turnover company in Toronto.

## Caithness in buyout talks with Drambuie

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE management and employees of Caithness Glass are negotiating a buyout from Drambuie, the company's parent group. Drambuie acquired the luxury glassware company only two years ago for £3.4 million.

Alistair Muir, Caithness Glass's chairman, confirmed that the company had been in talks with Drambuie and with financiers about the possibility of an MBO since the beginning of the year.

The deal is not expected to be completed for several months. The employees currently own 20 per cent of the company, a hangover from a 1984 MBO headed by Mr Muir.

Drambuie acquired an 80 per cent stake in Caithness Glass for £3.38 million in February 1991, as part of a diversification programme.

## Head of Unilever attacks spread of protectionism

By GEORGE STIVELL  
CITY EDITOR

MICHAEL Perry, the new chairman of Unilever, the food and consumer goods group, has criticised the advance of protectionism around the world.

Speaking after Unilever reported profits in excess of £2 billion for the first time ever, he said: "Even if there may be a flicker of hope that economic growth might resume sometime in 1993, we are increasingly worried by the unhelpful political trends which are now all too evident."

"The Gatt negotiations have become bogged down and their resolution is long overdue. We strongly support free trade and find the protectionist voices which can now be heard on both sides of the Atlantic to be very disturbing. Similarly, we believe that any policy of discriminatory treatment of foreign companies, wherever it might be mooted, would also be harmful to the world economy."

"Finally, we would be seriously concerned if pursuit of self interest within the European Economic Community were to result in any backtracking from the full implementation of the single market, which in the longer term has to be the engine of prosperity. European prosperity," He added: "One can only hope the current difficul-

■ Despite difficult trading, Unilever's annual profits exceeded £2 billion for the first time as spending on advertising and promotions reached £2.7 billion

ties surrounding the Maas-tricht treaty can be resolved otherwise the provisions in the treaty will become redundant."

In the year to end-December, Unilever's pre-tax profits rose 13 per cent to £2,029 million on sales up 7 per cent to £24,700 million. Spending on advertising and promotions rose from £2,368 million to £2,734 million and on research from £426 million to £461 million.

Unilever charged an exceptional £91 million for restructuring countered by £16 million of disposal profits, leaving a net £75 million charge for the year, against £43 million a year ago. Unilever sold 21 businesses and bought 22 during the year, including deals in Thailand, Hungary, Poland, Canada, Chile and Argentina. Acquisitions reached £310 million and disposals fetched £210 million.

The total British dividend rises to 20.8p (18.94p) out of earnings up from 61.62p to 69.14p. In the final quarter, earnings accelerated from 15.8p to 20.3p out of pre-tax profits up from £461 million to

£522 million. The shares rose 14p to £11.60.

Debits fell from £1.5 billion to £1.2 billion, 18 per cent of shareholders funds plus debits. Interest charges fell from £276 million to £148 million.

Looking back at 1992, Mr Perry said that "economic recovery proved to be an illusion in many of our major markets" and "regrettably the era of stable exchange rates proved to be short-lived."

The four core divisions contributed 96 per cent of sales against less than 80 per cent ten years ago. Foods turned in £1,088 million (£1,057 million) despite a slip in operating margins to 8.5 (8.9) per cent. Results at the detergents and personal products divisions improved, while the speciality chemicals unit remained steady at £229 million on margins down from 12.2 per cent to 11.7 per cent.

Mr Perry said that 1992 finished on a higher note than it began. "In itself, that augurs well for 1993, but it is too early to be confident that the economic environment will be any less than in 1992."

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Net accord: David Lloyd Leisure, the sports and leisure group run by David Lloyd, above, the former tennis international, is planning a full listing next month, with a placing and offer for sale that is expected to capitalise the group at about £50 million

and net about £10 million of new cash. The group owns and operates seven clubs. Proceeds from the listing will be used to fund future expansion. The terms will be announced on March 4, with dealing due to start on March 19.

## Howden rights to fund buy

By COLIN CAMPBELL

HOWDEN Group, the Glasgow engineering company that this year cleared itself from a sour Danish tunnelling machine contract that had dogged it since 1988, is buying a Danish fan company and plans a £22 million investment.

Howden will fund the purchase of Novenco Industries, being sold by Denmark's biggest sugar producer, via a two-for-seven rights issue at 52p, to raise £31.4 million. The balance of rights funds will be used to reduce gearing.

Konrad Johnson, Howden's chief executive, says Howden will integrate its fan operations with Novenco.

The total purchase price for Novenco is not expected to exceed £9.2 million. Another £7.8 million will be used to repay Novenco's borrowings and a further £5 million for integration costs.

## SmithKline Beecham profit rises to £1.1 bn

By OUR CITY STAFF

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the pharmaceutical and consumer goods group, raised pre-tax profits 11 per cent to £1.11 billion in 1992 out of sales up by a similar proportion to £5.21 billion. The results were broadly as expected but the shares rose 3p to 424p.

Analysts believe SmithKline is well placed to cope with the proposed healthcare reforms in America which threaten to reduce prices and profits on drugs. Robert Bauman, the chief executive, said on the Clinton proposals that the company wants "to have an active participation with the administration."

Analysts said that of the 15 per cent growth in drug sales achieved last year by SmithKline one was attributable to price increases. Some prices actually fell, they added. SmithKline paid an 8.6p dividend for the year to holders of its A shares out of earnings up from 24p to

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## Complaints to insurance referee increase sharply

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE number of complaints handled by Dr Julian Farrand, the insurance ombudsman, has more than doubled since 1991, to 5,576. Last year, the rise was 29 per cent but complaints about financial services are increasing more rapidly.

The office received 65,000 initial enquiries but about 30 per cent were about companies that are not members of the scheme, or were intended for other organisations. Of those dealt with, the ombudsman found in favour of policyholders in 31.5 per cent of cases.

However, where the complaints involved life assurance, or long-term investment policies, the adjudications went against insurers in 42 per cent of cases.

This compares with a 16 per cent revision rate for buildings claims, 20 per cent for contents and 21 per cent for

motor cases. Life assurance and other long-term cases are the largest single class of cases, accounting for 32 per cent of those completed by the ombudsman.

The scheme paid out £4.5 million last year. The largest award, of £120,000, was for a buildings claim from a policyholder after antique fireplaces were removed from his home, and other damage was done, during renovation. The smallest, of £7.76, was to cover a miscalculation on a motor policy.

To date, 220 cases involving home income plans have been referred to the ombudsman. The complainants are mostly elderly and used the value of their homes to take loans for the purchase of stockmarket-invested bonds.

About a third of the cases have been resolved, and £1 million has been paid out. Awards averaged £55,000.

The largest home income payment was £108,000. Dr Farrand reported a tripling of cases involving accidents, sickness and unemployment last year, to 354. He was concerned that details of a policy were not explained when insurance was sold as part of a loan and that misunderstandings about what was covered arose afterwards.

During 1992, completed cases increased by 58 per cent, and the average time from application to completion was reduced from 4.8 months to 3.7. In some cases, such as subsidence claims, the procedure was much longer, because various remedial measures were tried out over a period.

Not all complainants were seeking compensation. Dr Farrand said. Some simply wanted apologies from insurance companies for the treatment they had received.

## Amstrad back in black with £5m interims



Best-seller: Alan Sugar said turnaround was achieved in the traditional high sales season

ALAN Sugar, whose attempt to take his Amstrad computer group private in December was defeated by shareholders, yesterday announced interim pre-tax profits of £5.61 million, against a previous £11.9 million pre-tax loss, and declared a 0.2p (0.27p) a share interim dividend.

Sales for the six months to end-December were £195.6 million (£196.1 million). Operating profit before exceptional items was £13.5 million, compared with a previous £16.2 million operating loss.

Mr Sugar said the turnaround had been achieved "during our traditional best-selling season". Satellite equipment sales in Britain and Germany had been buoyant, there had been reasonable growth in facsimile sales and in the audio market, but personal computer sales had been poor and some had been

By COLIN CAMPBELL

at zero margin. Amstrad said trading conditions remained difficult and gave a warning that the second half might be merely break-even. Price increases in all product categories were planned because of adverse exchange rates.

In the full year to June 30, Amstrad reported a £70.7 million pre-tax loss, and after an 0.27p a share interim dividend, passed the year's final.

Amstrad's policy is to pay dividends from profits. A final dividend for the 1993 financial year will be considered in the light of second-half trading results, the group said.

To the course of last year's buy-out plan, Mr Sugar said Amstrad had no blockbuster products up its sleeve and there was little prospect of a significant regular dividend. Costs of £1.1 million associated with the 30p proposal have been charged against latest in-

terim profits. Mr Sugar was not available for comment yesterday. His office said he left his statement "said it all".

Amstrad is rationalising certain activities and made a £7.24 million provision for restructuring Spanish operations. The appointment of two non-executives is expected soon.

Gideon Fiegel, head of the shareholders' club that successfully opposed the buy-out, said the interim report was a mixture of good and bad news. He was "very disappointed" that £1.1 million "of our money" had been charged against profits, and asserted this would not have happened had non-executives been on the board. He was encouraged that the cash position had improved to £111.9 million, which he says, should enable Amstrad to pay a sensible final dividend.

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which is due to the fact that the company has a high level of debt and is therefore unable to pay a dividend. The company has also suffered a significant drop in its share price, which has led to a loss of confidence among investors.

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## Sedgwick cautious as profits slip to £58.2m

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

A SHARP contraction in the London insurance market, tough conditions in America and lower interest rates depressed profits at Sedgwick Group, the insurance broking and services group.

Pre-tax profits fell to £58.2 million for the year ended December from £82.4 million last time. The fall, in line with market expectations, was accompanied by a final dividend of 3p, taking the total to 6p, half last year's level of 12p.

The company remained cautious about prospects for 1993. Sax Riley, chief executive, said the first seven weeks of 1993 had been unpredictable. There were signs of improvement in American markets but rates had not yet turned. He said the only good thing was that the market would be flat this year, an improvement on the last few years when rates had fallen.

Prospects in Britain continue to look bleak with the sharp contraction in the reinsurance market and the lack of adequate capacity. Mr Riley said: "The absence of sufficient capacity is a problem for the entire insurance industry. We need more capital in the market. Rates are right but we need confidence to return in order to attract corporate capital."

The company continued its policy of keeping a tight hold on expenses, which rose 2 per cent to £609 million in 1992. However, brokerage and fees only advanced 1 per cent to £622 million. Mr Riley said he was not happy with the group's underlying performance and the company was

now turning its attention to revenue growth.

Because of this thin profit margin Sedgwick has tended to rely partly on interest and investment income for profits. However, lower British and American interest rates last year resulted in a £10.2 million drop in interest and investment income to £53 million. The fall would, however, have been greater if the company had not hedged against interest rate movements.

A geographical breakdown of profits reveals that the British operations suffered the largest fall in profits, dropping from £43.6 million to £27.7 million. This was mainly due to a £6 million loss from its share in River Thames Insurance Group, the London reinsurance company. In addition, EW Payne, a reinsurance business, saw brokerage and fees fall because of contracting market capacity.

The group's consulting business continued to expand with a 10 per cent increase in revenue. The company's stated strategy is to expand the business so that it contributes 50 per cent to revenue, from its present 20 per cent, with brokerage providing 80 per cent. Shareholders' funds fell by £73.2 million because of a change in accounting policy on the valuation of long leasehold and freehold properties. The change, to valuing the properties on an historic cost basis, was made because of the volatility in property values.

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## GrandMet investors run gauntlet of pub rent protest

By Martin Flanagan



Pub sign of discontent: an entrepreneur tenant makes her protest before yesterday's GrandMet annual meeting at the Grosvenor House Hotel

GRAND Metropolitan, one of the world's biggest drinks companies, shrugged off criticism at its annual meeting that it is forcing hundreds of public house landlords into bankruptcy through soaring rent increases in its

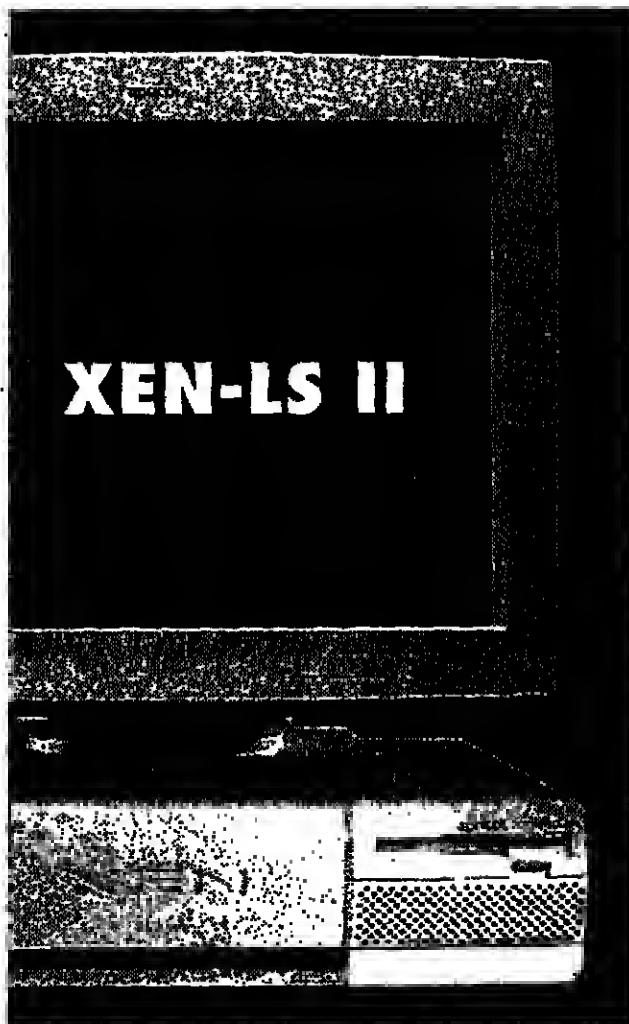
Shareholders had to pass a vociferous picket of representatives of the landlords outside London's Grosvenor House Hotel yesterday to hear Sir Allen Sheppard tell the meeting: "You cannot simply be a nice guy, much as you would like to be."

David Tagg, chief executive of GrandMet's property and UK retailing arm, said it was regrettable when some entrepreneur lessees got into trading difficulties, but, he said, sometimes it was in the commercial interests of the company and its shareholders to take legal action and repossess pubs.

IEL is jointly owned by GrandMet and Courage, the UK brewer owned by Foster's of Australia, with GrandMet managing the venture. GrandMet said the overwhelming majority of entrepreneur pubs were trading successfully.

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## Yorkshire Chemicals seeks £24m

By Our City Staff

YORKSHIRE Chemicals is raising £24.3 million to finance capital spending via a one-for-five rights issue at 330p a share. This compares with a market price of 400p, off 1p, as brokers reacted favourably yesterday to a slight drop in pre-tax profits to £10.1 million in 1992 (£11 million).

Yorkshire Chemicals, which exports 90 per cent of output, plans to spend £16 million this year and £9 million next on plant and buildings in its main areas of activity, against £10.1 million spent last year and £5.5 million in 1991.

The group said demand for its products remained strong. But margins had suffered because production capacity constraints had led it to increasingly out-source work over the past three years. The cash-raising exercise and higher capital expenditure were aimed at addressing this situation.

Phillip Lowe, chairman and managing director, said significant capital spend projects this year included centralising the Australian pigments operation on a new greenfield site near Melbourne, and increasing drying capacity for the UK dye-making business.

Turnover rose 5.6 per cent to £98 million last year, with earnings per share falling to 18.4p (20p). A final dividend of 5.15p makes 7.65p for the year, against 7.25p.

## BPB issue to reshape borrowings

By Carl Mortished

BPB Industries, the plasterboard manufacturer, has launched a £64 million convertible bond issue and forecast a cut in the final dividend to 4.8p (7.3p) per ordinary share. Shares in the group fell 17p to 217p.

The reduction takes the payout for the year to next month down to 7.5p from 11.3p, after November's cut in the interim payout from 4p to 2.7p. Peter Sydney-Smith, finance director of BPB, said the cut was in line with market expectations and was due to conditions in the plasterboard market, which remain difficult in Britain and France.

The new bonds carry a coupon of 7.25 per cent and are convertible into ordinary shares at a price of 258p, a 15.7 per cent premium to the share price. The bonds, which mature in 15 years, are redeemable at the company's option in five years. Initial demand for yesterday's issue persuaded the company to increase the offering from £60 million to £64 million.

Mr Sydney-Smith said the proceeds would be used to lengthen the maturity profile of the company's borrowings, which total £266 million. The bonds should reduce the proportion of debt repayable within 18 months from 66 per cent to 40 per cent.

## Debt provisions hit Bradford & Bingley

By Lindsay Cook, Money Editor

PROVISIONS for bad debt were increased by 166 per cent by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society last year, from £50.4 million to £81 million. Irrecoverable interest increased from £17.2 million to £44.5 million. As a result, the seventh-largest society reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £91.3 million, compared with £107.8 million in 1991.

The society said that the continuing recession and rising unemployment caused difficulties for some borrowers. As a result, arrears remained high, although the number of properties taken into possession were 38 per cent below the level for the previous year.

More than £50 million of the £125 million total for the provisions and irrecoverable interest is for the old Leamington Spa Building Society. The society was taken over by the Bradford & Bingley in 1991, when it appeared that it would

have to report a loss. When the Leamington Spa was taken over, it had a book value of £1 billion. At the end of 1992, only £400 million of its loans were fully performing, John Smith, finance director, said.

The Bradford & Bingley launched a scheme last November to rent out up to 400 of its repossessed properties over a year. A year earlier, it had tried to encourage people to buy such properties by offering fixed-rate mortgages at 6.99 per cent. The rate has since been cut to 4.99 per cent. The number of properties in possession has risen to 2,400.

The society's operating profits rose 24.7 per cent to £172 million and assets grew 9.6 per cent to £13 billion. Its capital base was strengthened by a £50 million issue of permanent interest bearing shares. The cost income ratio was cut from 47.1p for each pound of income to 44.7p in 1992.



## Philips to cement link with Grundig

FROM REUTERS IN KINHOVEN

PHILIPS Electronics is to consolidate Grundig, its 31.6 per cent-owned associate, in its accounts, beginning with the 1992 figures. Philips said it would increase co-operation with the loss-making German firm, particularly to avoid duplication of effort in development and manufacturing.

"It has become increasingly apparent that lower sales and shrinking margins necessitate the optimal exploitation of economies of scale," Philips said. The Dutch company has an agreement with Grundig, dating from 1984, to provide funds to finance any Grundig losses and to guarantee a minimum dividend. It said the rationalisation would not infringe on Grundig's corporate identity or brand image.

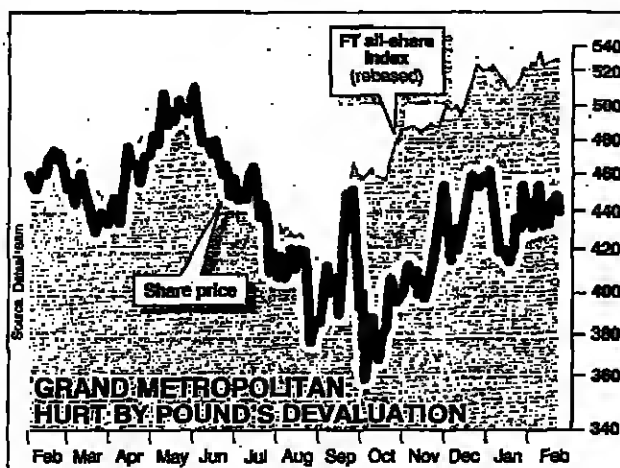
"We have provided funds for 100 per cent of any Grundig losses since 1984 and continue to do so," said Ben Geerts of Philips. The payments have never been disclosed in Philips accounts, and assume significance now that Grundig, best known for audio and television products, is expected to lose DM200 million in 1992 (DM115 million losses).

He said Philips would break out the cost of the funding with its year-end results on March 4. These 1992 results would consolidate Grundig in Philips accounts, but in itself would have no effect on the Dutch group's bottom line, he said.

Grundig is 68.4 per cent owned by the Max Grundig Stiftung, a private foundation. The shares are not listed. Mr Geerts said Philips had no plans to increase its stake.

Joost van Beek, electronics share analyst at Pierson Holdings in Pieterburen, believed Philips had guaranteed a minimum dividend of 2 million guilders (£770,000) a year to the private foundation. "It is a tradition of Philips to increase its stake and consolidate when it wants to take management control of an associate. In the past this has not always worked out well," he said.

## Cash call worries drag prices sharply lower



REVIVED fears that a rights issue queue is beginning to form outside the Square Mile dragged share prices on the London stock market sharply lower in thin trading.

The FT-SE 100 index closed just above its worst of the day, with a fall of 20.3 points to 2,818. It had been almost 25 points lower at one stage, but benefited from a rally on Wall Street. Turnover was less than 600 million shares, few investors being willing to open fresh positions.

Talk of a rights issue queue was rekindled by larger than expected debt provisions from National Westminster Bank, which took the shine off full-year figures and left the shares 12p lower at 447p. Pre-tax profits recovered from £110 million to £405 million and earnings per share rose from 3p to 12p; the dividend was maintained but provisions grew from £1.87 billion to £1.9 billion. The group said trading conditions in the UK remained difficult.

NatWest denied it was considering a rights issue but the size of its provisions raised fears that other companies might be considering raising extra cash to strengthen their balance sheets.

Barclays, down 19p at 430p, is considered a possible candidate for a rights issue; its figures are due soon. Falls were also seen in Standard Chartered, down 2p to 640p, Bank of Scotland, 3p to 133p, Royal Bank of Scotland, 3p to 237p and HSBC, 4p to 584p. Gains were recorded by Abbey National, up 1p to 386p and by Lloyds Bank, up 3p to 520p. Revived bid speculation lifted TSB Group 1p to 173p; BAT Industries, down 31p at 928p, is being mentioned as a possible suitor.

BAT has problems of its own: it is worried by the proposed rise in US excise duty. Rothmans International B fell 17p to 603p. The falls came in the wake of a sharp overnight fall on Wall Street in the US.

strengthen the balance sheet. The group plans to demerge its bulk chemicals and pharmaceutical operations. But the weakness of drug share prices is beginning to undermine ICI.

Guinness fell 12p to 456p after news of a profits downgrade for its French associate LVMH-Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton. The French champagne and luxury goods group has been warning Paris brokers for some time that it is finding the going tough.

SmithKline Beecham A firm 3p to 424p, cheered by a rise in pre-tax profits from £1 billion to £1.1 billion. The falls came in the wake of a sharp overnight fall on Wall Street in the US.

pre-tax profits last year fall

the shares of Philip Morris, the US food and tobacco group, President Clinton has threatened to curb smoking.

Analysts are anxiously awaiting full-year figures from ICI, down 4p to 640p, and Harby Oil, 6p to 149p. Even Shell managed to recover some of the ground lost after news of heavy foreign exchange losses at its Japanese subsidiary. The price rose 6p to 581p.

Worries that the recession may still have some way to run were reflected by BET, the industrial services group, down 9p to 83p. Hoare Govett has left its current-year forecast unchanged at £70 million, but has cut its estimate for 1994 by 20 per cent, to £81 million. Further disposals are in the pipeline and dividend cuts appear likely.

British Aerospace was a nervous market ahead of full-year figures today. These are expected to make grim reading. City analysts are penciling in pre-tax losses of between £800 million and £1 billion, compared with a loss last time of £81 million. The figures are expected to be weighed down by heavy exceptional charges after a prolonged period of rationalisation and restructuring. The group reported losses of £129 million at the half-way stage.

BPB Industries, Britain's biggest plasterboard manufacturer, fell 15p to 219p after the group said that it would cut its final dividend from 7.3p to 4.5p. The group has increased the size of its euroconvertible bond issue by £4 million, to £64 million, because of strong demand. The proceeds will be used to reduce short-term debt.

Sedgwick, the insurance broker, has cut its total dividend by half to 6p after seeing pre-tax profits last year fall

from £82.4 million to £58.2 million. The group blamed the recession for the setback.

Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, celebrated a return to the black at the half-way stage, with a rise of 4p to 29p. Buoyant sales of satellite equipment enabled the group to report a pre-tax profit of £5.6 million, compared with a loss last time of £12 million. Conditions remain tough.

One of the few bright spots was the oil sector. Prices hardened, helped by the rise in the price of Brent crude to almost \$19 a barrel. Lassa, which has been tipped as a possible bid candidate, was unchanged at 176p. But there were gains for BP, up 6p to 276p, Buremah, 7p to 715p, and Petrochem, 3p to 52p.

Goal Petroleum, 2p to 64p, and Harby Oil, 6p to 149p. Even Shell managed to recover some of the ground lost after news of heavy foreign exchange losses at its Japanese subsidiary. The price rose 6p to 581p.

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## Nikkei hangs on G7 outcome

Tokyo — Shares ended mixed in quiet trading, with the Nikkei index fluctuating narrowly around Monday's closing level. Investors were cautious in the face of the surging yen and ahead of the Group of Seven (G7) meeting of finance ministers this weekend.

"Investors are reluctant to move, because they have no clear idea when corporate earnings will bottom out after recent rises in the yen," said one broker at a foreign firm.

The Nikkei index rose by 42.54 points to 16,863.15, with an estimated 200 million shares traded. The broader Topix index fell by 2.60 points to 1,281.31.

The market opened weaker after Monday's downward trend, but soon back losses in early trading as buying by public pension and insurance funds took effect. The market moved nervously, selling and buying currency-sensitive issues, with the Nikkei trapped in a 131.03-point range.

Many investors think the G7 meeting will decide a policy in the currency market, so they prefer to remain until uncertainty over the yen's direction is lifted, brokers said.

At Hong Kong — The market closed sharply lower on profit-taking triggered by lack of news on resolving the Sino-British dispute over Hong Kong's political reforms, brokers said. The Hang Seng index ended 82.69 points lower at 6,149.19 and the broader All Ordinaries index lost 40.52 points to 3,266.51. Volume eased to HK\$2.82 billion from Monday's HK\$2.90 billion. "The market is due for a downward correction after the rally over the previous two weeks," said Patrick Choi, of Asia Equity.

At Singapore — The Straits Times index closed at a record high of 1,661.32, as retail investors bought on expectations that a pro-business budget will be announced on Friday.

China deal 'worth billions' to AT&T

FROM REUTERS IN PEKING

AMERICAN Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) signed an agreement to co-operate with China to manufacture switching and other equipment. The Chinese partner is the State Planning Commission, which is responsible for the government-controlled sector of China's economy, including a huge programme to upgrade the country's telecommunications network aimed at supporting the current economic growth.

The agreement gives AT&T a powerful ally in penetrating potentially the largest market for telecommunications equipment.

Other areas of business may include manufacturing microelectronics, optical transmission products and cellular equipment, as well as network management, research involving AT&T's Bell Laboratories and manpower training.

HOPE that the government might find scope for another cut in bank base rates in the short term enabled government securities to make headway in thin trading.

Prices took their lead from the futures market, where the long gilt rose ten ticks to £103<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in moderate trading, which saw 27,000 contracts completed. Brokers said genuine retail demand had been minimal. Much of the business had focused on roll-over situations, with investors starting to switch from the March to the June series.

On the cash market, the new 9 per cent Treasury 2011 C reached the next supply level of £15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

At the long end, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 rose five ticks to £105<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, while at the shorter end, Exchequer 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> per cent 1998 firmed three ticks to £112<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: Sotrebys 900p (+15p) Antioch 888p (+15p) Lamb 465p (+10p) Danka Bus Systems 640p (+35p) Carlton Comm 797p (+10p)

FALLS: Suppi 489p (-10p) General Accident 573p (-10p) Wellcome 881p (-25p) Talside Chem 741p (-25p) Barclays 427p (-21p) Nat West 443p (-16p)

Guinness 456p (-12p) BAT 828p (-33p) BPS Ind 217p (-17p) British Sky-Tech 481p (-24p) Liberty 568p (-17p) THORN EM 828p (-10p) Argyl 385p (-11p) J Sainsbury 508p (-13p) De La Rue 651p (-15p) Eng China Clays 452p (-10p) TI 280p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 27

## Clinton worries hold back Dow

New York — Blue chips struggled to hold small gains in late-morning trade after an early 20-point loss on the Dow Jones industrial average was erased.

A strong rally in bonds, some futures-linked buy programs and an oversold condition helped the market to recover, analysts said. Nervousness and uncertainty over President Clinton's economic plans, however, limited gains as investors moved to the sidelines.

"Uncertainty has got stocks scared to death," said James Andrews, head of trading at Janney Montgomery Scott.

Towards the end of the morning, the Dow was 0.81 points down at 3,342.18.

Frankfurt — The market slid in a technically driven consolidation. Investors began taking profits after several days of gains, when prices showed signs of weakness at the start of trading.

The Dax index began the day slightly weaker and tended to move lower throughout the session. The decline picked up speed toward the end of the trading day and the Dax closed 19.16 points down at 1,661.58. Cars and chemicals suffered particularly heavy losses.

(Reuters)

## WALL STREET

	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 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# worries Dow

towards the end of the morning, the Dow was 9,811 points down at 3,342.18.  
Frankfurt — The market closed in a technically driven consolidation. Investors began taking profits after several days of gains, when prices showed signs of weakness at the start of trading.  
The Dow index began the day slightly weaker and then moved lower through the session. The decline picked up speed toward the end of the trading day and the Dow closed 19.10 points down at 1,661.55. Cars and chemicals suffered particularly heavy losses.

STREET

## Recession forces Daimler to stay on the motorway

Colin Narbrough reports on why Mercedes cars provide the only real hope of paying for the diversification plans of the parent company

Edzard Reuter, the corporate visionary and card-carrying Social Democrat at the helm of Daimler-Benz, the German industrial flagship, chose to celebrate his 65th birthday quietly last week. The reasons for his discretion are twofold: recession and complacency have forced even the long-gilded Daimler into a position where he has had to take a big knife to his German operations and workforce, and his master plan to create Europe's foremost "integrated technology" group has been redefined to recognise that Daimler's century-old business, cars, still offers the much-coveted to finance strategic expansion in other sectors.

Developments within the Daimler empire, and especially at Mercedes, its motor vehicles arm, reflect the broader problem facing western Germany. After the heady decades of the *Wirtschaftswunder*, the shock of unification has made clear to people in the wealthy western states, such as Baden-Württemberg, Daimler's home territory, that they are no longer assured of a place in the sun. High labour costs, market rigidities and environmental constraints are important factors. So too, as Daimler demonstrates, is the failure to adapt to global market realities.

For many years, it sufficed for Mercedes' armies of skilled Swabian engineers to craft luxury limousines with never a care about cost. There were long queues of willing customers. Only two years ago, Mercedes unveiled the biggest and costliest car of its recent history. The "S" model was to signal a new dawn in motoring culture. Instead, as Germany and most of Europe languished under recession, the very limousine became a symbol of how Mercedes had lost its way. The car proved too expensive even for Mercedes' lovers, many of whom appear to have switched to other marques, German or Japanese.

Mercedes, whose lasting, high-quality appeal allowed it to operate without effective competition until the late eighties, should have seen the writing on the wall when BMW and Audi started to be a serious threat. Japanese cars, so long underestimated, also managed the breakthrough into the quality end of the market. Toyota knew exactly against whom it was pitching its Lexus, as did Honda and Nissan with their high-quality models. The quality edge Mercedes enjoyed has all but vanished, and that has given price a new importance: making luxury cars is cheaper outside Germany.

The Mercedes balance sheet certainly signalled the need for an urgent rethink. The operating profit was still showing DM3.5 billion in 1987. Last year, the alarm bells were triggered by the company's first operating loss — some DM1.1 billion.

Management's response was as swift as it was harsh. The axing of about 27,500 jobs was decided, along with



Refocused: Edzard Reuter has accepted the need to concentrate on cars

short-time working at German plants. Car output is being reduced to near 500,000 this year from 600,000 three years ago.

If Herr Reuter's ambitions for Daimler's other businesses — Deutsche Aerospace, the Airbus partner; AEG, the electronic and electrical goods company; and Debsi, the services firm — are to be realised, Mercedes must start laying the golden eggs again. Despite the encouraging flow of Airbus orders, the aircraft industry is in a delicate state. Other parts of Daimler threaten to disappoint too, if they have not done so already.

Recession and sluggish demand in important markets, in part attributable to the Bundesbank's strong mark policy, weigh heavily on the German motor industry, the success of which helped lift the country from the ruins of world war two. Estimates from the German automobile industry (VDA) show that 40,000 jobs in the west German sector will be shed this year

after a 5 per cent reduction last year. Vehicle output, which last year dimmed to 5.2 million units, is expected to drop 10 per cent this year. Investment, usually a German strength, will drop by a fifth. The central message from the VDA is that production costs must be lowered by 20 per cent in the next few years if the industry wants to remain internationally competitive.

The motor industry, which turned over DM165.5 billion last year, can still report success. Car exports were up 17 per cent, although this can be explained by the rundown of stocks in the main export markets, as German producers sought to satisfy long pent-up demand in car-hungry east Germany.

The irony of Herr Reuter's situation is that when he took over as management board chairman at Daimler in 1987, he was welcomed as the corporate thinker (with a social heart) needed to shake the company out of the car-

centric coma it had been in under Werner Breitschwerdt, his predecessor. As finance director waiting for the top job, Herr Reuter had laid his plans for a more diversified group. Now he has acknowledged the need to focus, at least while he regroups his forces, on cars.

The man picked to do the job is Helmut Werner, former head of Continental, the tyre group. At 56, the cosmopolitan Herr Werner last month took over operational responsibility for Mercedes from Werner Niefer, like Herr Breitschwerdt, one of Mercedes' Swabian old guard. And no time is being lost. Herr Werner, who displayed his talents in restructuring the loss-making truck division, is steering a totally new course. The holy trinity of the Mercedes car range — compact, medium and big — is being junked. The selection is to be widened to hitherto untouched markets. A family transporter, like Renault's Espace, is to be introduced; there will be a competitive cross-country vehicle (as opposed to the present over-priced military spin-off) and a mini-Mer for environmental-friendly city use.

The challenge to other carmakers on a broader front will be accompanied by a campaign to give the company a new image. Past insistence on the cachet of "Made in Germany" is being abandoned for "Made by Mercedes". Not that German carmakers have been stick-at-homes. Volkswagen epitomises the global manufacturer, having for years produced cars and trucks in key markets outside Germany. It has had its mistakes, such as its failure to understand that Americans wanted to pay for the status of a German-built car rather than buy the equivalent made in America. The highly successful BMW plans production in South Carolina in 1995. Even the cautious Mercedes has modest assembly operations in South Africa and Indonesia.

The emergence of regional trading blocs has not been lost on Mercedes. It plans to open an assembly plant in Mexico, the lowest-cost member of the North American free trade agreement group, later this year. Last week, Mercedes, with an eye on the Pacific rim, announced a deal to develop a new car to be produced in South Korea in co-operation with Saegyeong Motor Company. This shows how footloose even Mercedes has become.

A question asked in Germany is whether Mercedes is about to go offshore. Old anxieties about *Standort Deutschland* (the viability of Germany as an industrial base) have been aroused. Another is whether Herr Reuter is about to go. The answer to both questions is "no". Only days after Herr Werner unveiled his plans for reviving Mercedes, Daimler announced an impressive DM800 million investment in development facilities near Stuttgart. Production costs in Germany are being lowered in earnest, even if it means breaking the taboo of severe job cuts. More components will be sourced abroad, but the bulk of production will stay in Germany.

As to Herr Reuter's future, he extended his contract a year ago to the end of 1995. But it will be Herr Werner, the chairman-in-waiting with the task of restoring Mercedes' fortunes, who will decide on what note Herr Reuter departs.

## TEMPUS

### The cost of capital

THE only crumb of comfort in the banking industry during this recession has been that clearing banks' capital ratios have remained strong, mainly due to the lack of demand for loans. This illusion was destroyed by National Westminster's figures yesterday, which suggest the bank needs a large injection of cash.

NatWest's core capital ratio has sunk to 5.2 per cent, 0.3 of a point lower than a year ago due to the appreciation of the group's foreign currency assets. The figure looks comfortable compared with the minimum standard of 4 per cent, but is misleading. If the group had locked the full £268 million fall in the value of its properties off its balance sheet the ratio would have been nearer 5 per cent. The further fall in the pound's value since the start of the year has reduced the ratio by a further 0.1 of a point. This shrinkage, plus contin-

uing bad debts, pushes NatWest's capital ratios towards the danger zone, since the market discriminates against any institution with a capital of less than 5 per cent. If there is any upturn in lending demand NatWest is ill prepared to meet it.

Lord Alexander is wise to rule out a full rights issue, since the City would almost certainly greet it with derision. The alternative for the bank would be a private placing of 5 per cent of its stock, similar to HSBC's issue last year. This would boost the core ratio to a more comfortable, if not particularly generous, 5.2 per cent.

Even so, the message of NatWest's figures is grim. Clearing banks have suffered too much damage during the recession. They cannot continue to write off so many bad debts and pay dividends from reserves much longer.

### SmithKline Beecham

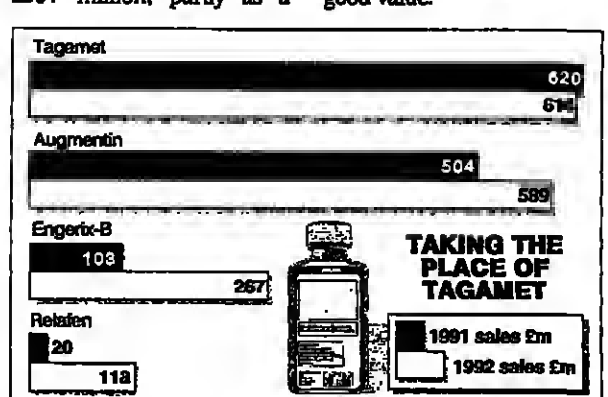
TAGAMET has been a wonder drug for SmithKline Beecham, accounting for more than 20 per cent of sales in recent years. But the group's fortunes rest on how successfully it can reduce its dependence on Tagamet by the time its patent expires in May next year. Generic competition could reduce sales by more than a third.

The group forecasts that Tagamet will account for only 10 per cent of sales by 1994 and is well on the way to that target. The impact on profits is harder to predict as the company refuses to disclose Tagamet's contribution. Some of the fall could also be offset by an OTC version of the drug in Britain, America and Japan.

Future growth depends on SB's new products. In this respect the results are encour-

aging. Half of the pharmaceutical division's 15 per cent growth in turnover came from the group's newer products. Relafen, the arthritis medication, saw sales rise by 524 per cent to £118 million after its launch into the American market, where it is now one of the top three products in its sector. Sales of Engerix-B, the hepatitis B vaccine, rose 154 per cent to £267 million, partly as a

result of production problems at Merck, its main competitor. Even the established antibiotic Augmentin grew by 14 per cent to become SB's second \$1 billion dollar drug, following in Tagamet's footsteps. SB's substantial research investment should ensure that important new products continue to emerge. At a 15 per cent discount to the market, the shares look good value.



### Unilever

COMPANIES that still value their brands on their balance sheets should note that Unilever spent £2.7 billion advertising its products last year, 11 per cent of group turnover. This shows that brands demand continual investment to be maintained and strengthened. If companies insist on awarding a value to trading names they should be prepared to depreciate them by as much as 25 per cent a year on Unilever's figures, which can be offset by marketing spending.

The 16 per cent rise in Unilever's marketing spending merely highlighted the strength of the group, which reduced debt by £300 million to £1.2 billion despite the fall in sterling and the net £100 million cost of acquisitions.

Michael Perry may deplore the perils that beset the world trade talks but few believe that adverse economic conditions will dent Unilever. Profits continue to be driven by product innovation in Europe and America and volume growth in the devel-

oping world. The coming year should see Unilever expand its ice cream division, its highest margin business. The \$155 million purchase of Popsicle and Klondike in America last month has brought a toehold in that market which needs to be developed with further acquisitions. Such moves will consolidate the group's apparently unassailable position in its core markets.

### Amstrad

SOMEONE had to pay for Alan Sugar's bid for Amstrad but the company's shareholders can rightly feel aggrieved that they are being charged £1.1 million toward an episode that should never have happened. They may be slightly mollified if Mr Sugar reveals how much the ill-conceived venture cost him.

The electronics group's figures show how right its investors were to spurn the Amstrad bid. The share price is now just 1p lower than the 30p offer price in spite of Mr Sugar's warnings.

The figures were loaded

with almost £12 million in exceptional costs and provisions but could not conceal Amstrad's inherent profitability. Shareholders grateful for a 0.2p dividend should note it cost less than a third of the interest on the group's £111 million loan.

Amstrad has the resilience to trade through the recession. The company is also looking an increasingly attractive bid target, but shareholders should reject anything less than the 46p asset value.

### Sedgwick

Sedgwick's decision to revalue its properties down to historic cost may seem like a model of prudent accounting. In reality, the firm has made a smart decision. If it had revalued in the normal way it could have taken a unpleasant hit on the profit and loss account. The properties are now so conservatively valued that the group could earn a substantial profit if it decides to sell. Judging from last year's figures Sedgwick needs all the profit it can find.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Otherwise engaged

LLOYD'S of London brokers are too sensible to be distracted from serious matters at hand — well, 24 magnanimous of vintage Veuve Clicquot, that is. Visiting Chris Haynes to celebrate the first anniversary of Eaton's, a Mincing Lane wine bar, the 40 guests failed to notice the absence of their host for more than an hour. Haynes, better known to his customers as "chubbies", was trapped in the disabled toilet. "I only used it because the other toilets were full. The lock broke on the door, and it took well over an hour to get me out," Haynes reported much too soberly. "By the time they got me out, all the magnanimous had disappeared."

### Nomura-go-round

MORE musical chairs at Nomura, which has recruited its second pan-European specialist in weeks, after a cost-cutting clearance involving 49 job losses last October. Michael Wheelhouse, 33, is leaving Hoare Govett to become Nomura's European insurance and banking analyst, covering continental Europe and not the UK. Wheelhouse starts on March 15, unless Hoare, which took away his banking portfolio several years ago to let him concentrate on insurance, relents and lets him out of his contract early. This month, Baring Securities lost Heino Ruland, 36, to Nomura, where he began this week as head of German equities. Word has it that Basil Postan, Nomura's head of equities, is looking for more recruits with

pan-European, particularly German, expertise. Step forward any oil analysts keen to fill the shoes of Christine Baker, who left Nomura this month for James Capel.

IT seems The Milwaukee Sentinel has some useful tips for Britons with low irritation thresholds. A financial advice column passes on the following anecdote: "A woman I know has an effective way of dealing with unsolicited calls from telephone salesmen. Just as he gets into his sales pitch, she says: 'Oh, thank heavens! You want to SELL me something. I thought you were another debt collection agency!'"

### Ultra bold

MICHAEL Perry, the chairman of Unilever, is only too well aware of the value of good marketing. The company spent £2.7 billion on advertising and promotion last year. But just as he launched into a display of products at yester-

day's results presentation, Perry noticed that a photographer had run out of film. "I can pause and chat about the weather", he joked before holding aloft a tub of Promise Ultra fat-free margarine for a prolonged period. "This," he said, "takes Ultra to the Ultimate." He paused before adding: "We have got jobs for good copywriters."

### Top of the poll

FEW women crash through the glass ceiling directly below the boardroom with as much apparent ease as Gertrud Hohlner, who emerged as the clear favourite of Grand Metropolitan shareholders. Sitting alongside Sir Allen Sheppard at the annual meeting at Grosvenor House in Park Lane, she blushed only slightly when it was revealed that proxy voters — and there were a record number this year — overwhelmingly supported her election as a director. Hohlner, 51, who joined GrandMet last November as a non-executive director, topped the poll with 49 per cent of the vote. The professor founded Berlin-based Hohlner Consultants in 1985, and her clients include the majority of the 50 largest companies in Germany. Despite that, she has found time to write 14 books, won a prize for literature, and serves on an advisory council for the German Federal Defence Ministry. Clearly women — or indeed men — like her are hard to find. But headhunters seeking top women for top jobs are now paying a premium — in some cases another 10 per cent.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### More pension thoughts for Goode

From Mr Richard Davis  
Sir, Historically, the major incentive for employees in employment with local authorities, the Civil Service, or other bodies covered by statutory pension arrangements has been the perception and, often, the enjoyment of superior pension benefits as against most of those in the private sector.

Admittedly, this has changed over the past decade or so. However, the case authority reported in your newspaper (February 18, page 34) under the title Griffin v London Pension Fund Authority (Court of Appeal) suggests that the reverse is the case. Its conclusion appears to be that in the private sector those earning pensionable benefits are accruing "deferred pay" enforceable by employment law rights, including those against sexual discrimination. Public sector employees appear excluded from such protection. It may be that they and their employers have been aware of this "lacuna". However, I doubt it.

An additional problem that

occurs to me is the possible implication of this in the context of privatisation of certain functions of bodies covered by these statutory schemes. Under government provisions these are required within a certain period to establish occupational pension arrangements of their own. If the employees concerned transfer their accrued benefits from the statutory scheme to the new scheme established in the private arena will the pensionable service covered by the transfer payment still have immunity from "deferred pay"/sexual discrimination claims by aggrieved employees?

How many more spirals are due to rise out of the Pandora's Box identified and opened by the European Court of Justice on May 17, 1992?

More food for thought for the Goode Committee? Yours faithfully, RICHARD DAVIS (Partner), Eversheds, Eversheds Wells & Hind, 10 Newhall Street, Birmingham.

### 'Granny bonds' would help protect incomes

From Mr J. A. Taylor  
Sir, I would strongly support the view expressed by Mr Trevor Openshaw (Business Letters February 17) that "Granny bonds" be reintroduced to help pensioners, including the many who took early retirement to assist with the financial planning of their institutions, in my case a university, and now find their investment income savagely reduced by the recent severe reduction in interest rates.

In addition, 15 years of cumulative erosion of university salaries also depressed pension levels in my case, and indeed in many others. One wonders also what the national scale is of invisible, but often substantial, parental subsidies of their children's cost of living and house purchase schemes, freely given out of taxable income, yet propping up the economy in that sector at the same time! Yours faithfully, J. A. TAYLOR (Professor Emeritus of Geography), Glen Ceiro, Dole, Bow Street, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

### Job creation

From Mr N. A. Rogers  
Sir, I would like to see an Industrial Banking Agency (IBA) set up on a regional basis, run by business people to help small businesses create jobs. The government should put some capital into the bank and the public should be encouraged to invest in the bank (investors should receive a tax incentive).

We need government leadership to encourage small businesses to get on with the jobs and employ people, not make them redundant.

Any profits made by IBA should be ploughed back into the regions' own industry for future expansion.

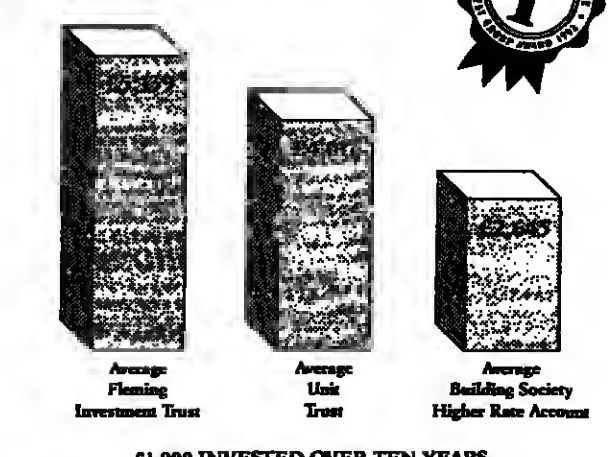
If only the high street banks had supported companies in the past two years many would have survived, but I submit that the high street banks have failed miserably in their understanding of industry. Furthermore, if the high street banks had kept their profits within their UK regions instead of investing in useless projects abroad many, many, British companies would have survived.

I believe there is plenty of work available provided companies are prepared to work to get the business. So let's get working.

Production means employment creating income and consumption so that the circle can be repeated over and over again. We British can show the world how to succeed and forget the gloom.

Yours faithfully, NIVELLE ROGERS, Ringwood, Castle Mill, Golding Road, Bedford.

## The Flemings PEP gives you more.



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source of fossils.

Mr Moore said: "The fossil is quite amazing, not

the *Tyrannosaurus* primitive shark-like fish,

became extinct

three-year-old dog muzzled

police would not disclose.

prices are approximately

the terms of the Account is fixed from 1 March 1993 to 1 March 1998. Withdrawals allowed after the first year subject to 60 days notice and may be subject to a penalty. For full details, refer to the terms

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, VINTAGE

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, VINTAGE



THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1993

[illegible]

SECRET



## Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall daily dividend figure. If this figure is positive, you are a share of the daily price money fund. If it is negative, you are a share of the daily price money fund. Follow the daily price money fund on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	BPP	Business Serv	
2	London Abbey	Insurance	
3	Budgen	Food	
4	Flare Tech	Electrical	
5	Union Dac	Banking	
6	Avon Rubber	Industrial	
7	Travis Perkins	Building	
8	Burnham	Oil, Gas	
9	Hambros	Banking	
10	Abbey King	Paper, Print	
11	Fletcher Maud	Property	
12	BT Petroleum	Oil, Gas	
13	S&W Western	Electrical	
14	Intimate Corp	Industrial	
15	Matthew Clark	Business Serv	
16	Johnstone Press	Newspaper, Pub	
17	Color Corp	Oil, Gas	
18	Marnham	Electrical	
19	Nurweb	Electrical	
20	Prin Borneo	Oil, Gas	
21	Pfizer Leisure	Leisure	
22	Rockwell	Industrial	
23	Refuge	Insurance	
24	Adwest	Industrial	
25	Stoddard	Textiles	
26	Lloyds Bank	Industrial	
27	Lloyds Bank	Insurance	
28	Midlands Elec	Electrical	
29	Central TV	Leisure	
30	Boat (Honey)	Building	
31	Reflex Sec	Business Serv	
32	Unesco MIM	Fin Trusts	
33	Seaboard	Electrical	
34	Goat Per	Oil, Gas	
35	Southwest	Newspaper, Pub	
36	Watson & Phil	Food	
37	Manderson	Building	
38	Tram	Food	
39	CRH	Building	

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**£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES**  
If you have ticked off your eight shares in our Match The Shares game, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Three winners share yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Miss I. Bevan, Bath, Avon; Mrs B Lang, Salisbury, Wilt; and Mr S Marling, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks.

1992/93	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	100	95	BP	100	95	5.5	18.2
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## Shares lose ground

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 15. Dealings end February 26. Contango day March 1. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are all market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## BUSINESS SERVICES



As companies cut back on the number of secretaries, those left behind have to take on greater responsibilities. Sally Watts reports

# Initiative is the key to success

Paradoxically, as companies slim down, the secretary's role is expanding. Her or his changing status, as he or she moves up from factotum to specialist, reflects the current changes in company practice.

The secretary's role is altering massively. In government and business they now attend meetings on behalf of the boss and write reports," says Deborah Alcock, who is in charge of secretarial development at the Industrial Society, which is at present examining the whole future of the secretarial career. For example, should there be more disabled secretaries? And is "secretary" the correct job description anyway?

Initiative is essential for the successful secretary, according to Peter Toner, who handles training at Angela Mortimer's recruitment consultancy. When companies cut back, secretaries who remain have a "terribly important" front-line role, with responsibility for their firms' image. "Whereas last year a company might have employed four secretaries, each earning £20,000, it

now pays to have only one, running three or four people's functions, for £30,000 to £35,000," he says.

"There will be more specialists — secretaries who understand their work area and can liaise between managers and clients. Some have an absolute wealth of knowledge — law, banking, marketing, computing." A growing number, he adds, are highly skilled in managing office technology.

His colleague, Penny Humphrey, runs an annual seminar for 150 college leavers, held in May between their work experience and exams. She says: "We show them what an exciting career lies ahead. Many still think of it as typing and making coffee. But what you do in your first job will not be the same forever."

At last year's seminar, Kay Boardman, a highly paid PA described how she had managed her career, planning each step, and how her duties changed as she progressed. But if learner companies retain only one secretary, she or he has to be the best. So, how do you become the best? Good qualifications are impor-

tant. The Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries, which helps professional and career development, also has a students' category; members receive a support pack, price £8, for a year. Distance learning is a newer way to train. Elaine Howard, a former secretary, now an Open University graduate, owns Kudos Training, a small college in Kew, southwest London.

In addition to day and evening classes, she runs distance learning for the London Chamber of Commerce's private secretary's certificate, as a main subject of the private and executive secretary's diploma. The certificate includes communication, secretarial administration and management appreciation.

"This is a good way of self-improvement. Students attend monthly Saturday workshops, near the exams there are two a month," Mrs Howard says. "Students come from all over the country. More employers now pay for their secretaries to train, both for distance learning and other methods."

Another choice is the Industrial Society's range of six courses —



Looking to go far: Elaine Howard and some of her students at the Kudos Training college

reorganised to link with the National Vocational Qualifications — which cover everyone from beginners up to senior secretaries who lead office teams. Most courses include working with management; all aim to build confidence.

They are held in Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Manchester and, occasionally, Bristol. They are all employer-funded. "I want more secretaries to see the

work as a gateway and profession," says Mary Overton, a senior management adviser. "Europe, too, can open possibilities if they build up languages."

Important though skills and experience are, there must be the "value added" factor. It is called personality: how you are perceived by those you work with. Mrs Boardman, who was chosen by Angela Mortimer as its 1992 PA of the Year, says: "I have old

fashioned views: I believe in being as helpful, pleasant and accommodating as possible, even when you are asked to do something at the last minute. Put your work first; have a positive mental attitude. If you grow out of a job, move on. But while you are there make yourself indispensable."

● The Industrial Society 071-839 4300; Kudos Training 081-878 0818; The Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries 0602 733235

## ADDING LUSTRE TO YOUR SKILLS

BUSY secretaries should make the most of their leisure. One way is to attend classes they enjoy, such as dancing.

□ Pineapple Dance Studio, at Covent Garden, London, (071-224 5540) has a range of day and evening dance classes at £4 a lesson; hydrofitness is also available. Other branches offer gym, sauna and hydro. The Paddington branch opens at 7am. Membership is £60 a year (£30 for groups), £25 a month or £3 a day (£1 at Paddington).

□ Flower arranging is both a hobby and, for the secretary who helps with company entertainment, a useful skill. The Constance Spry School at Farnham, Surrey (0252 734477) holds one-day demonstrations for £30, with lunch and wine for £35 there are demonstrations plus workshop. Alternatively, you could spend a day watching cookery demonstrations or divide your visit between cookery and flower arranging.

□ What about home decorating? One-day courses at the KLC School of Interior Design, at Shepherd's Bush, west London, (071-602 8592) includes decorative paint finishes and mauling; stencilling and tortoiseshell work. If you want to excel at curtain making, there is everything from basics to swags and tails; you might even tackle padded headboards.

□ Le Cordon de Bleu, in St Marylebone Lane, London (071-935 3503) is another possibility for cooking enthusiasts. Evening lessons can be an asset for secretaries involved in corporate hospitality, or simply wanting to add lustre to their own skills.

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The bankers are anxious; but the shares are rising; circulation is falling; but the same is true of its rivals; the journalists are in revolt; but the paper had lost touch... two personal views of David Montgomery's regime

# Mirror: a rescue or a wreck?

Somewhere — hiding in a sewer like Harry Lime or sheltering in a friendly attic in the manner of an allied airman in occupied France — is the man who first had the idea of making David Montgomery the chief executive of the Mirror Group. Nobody expects the culprit to come forward voluntarily.

Lord Hollick, who is generally held responsible, has only vague memories of how Mr Montgomery became associated with the consortium which he and Anthony Beever formed to make a bid for the three tabloid newspapers. Mr Beever — executive director of corporate finance at Hambro's Bank — recalls a firm of stockbrokers speaking highly of Mr Montgomery's talents but thinks it wrong to say who they were. The company in question, has no comment to make. Charles Wilson — sometime editor of *The Times*, who went to the Mirror Group to run *The Sporting Life* and became managing director of the group, is emphatic that he was not responsible.

Three months ago, Mr Montgomery was said to be the saviour and redeemer of Robert Maxwell's dubious legacy. He was recruited to bust restrictive practices, streamline the bloated organisation and make the Mirror Group profitable enough to lead an independent existence. Because of the manner and method by which he has pursued that objective, the banks (who still effectively own the three newspapers), have begun to worry about their investment.

The political affiliation of the group is only part of the problem. Certainly Mr Montgomery — whose only previous relationship with the Labour party was unremitting antagonism — seemed not to understand that the occasional partisan headline was not enough to maintain the paper's reputation as part of the campaigning left. And the appointment of David Seymour as political supremo has only intensified the difficulties.

Whatever his motives, Mr Seymour wrote the general election's most vitriolic attack on the Labour leader and, we must presume consciously, aided the Conservative cause. Putting him in charge of politics for the whole group was probably a breach of Mr Montgomery's undertaking to leave editing to individual editors. It could only lead to trouble. But it



He's back: how *The Sunday Times* sees Montgomery's revolutionary reign at the Mirror group

seems that trouble is what Mr Montgomery wants.

The saga of the sub-editors is typical. Shortly after Mr Montgomery's arrival, he announced that sub-editors would work a five, rather than the traditional four day, week. Seven journalists took the management to law and obtained an undertaking in court. Mr Montgomery responded by sacking some of the litigants. His offer of reemployment was delivered by motor-cycle dispatch rider to at least one employee at three o'clock in the morning.

Among the casualties are the Father of the NUJ Chapel and his deputy who — as well as being elected as the journalists' representatives — happened to be two senior features sub-editors. They were told to choose between union offices and their jobs. Both have left.

Morale has been sadly damaged by the Gradgrind theory of industrial relations. Key positions are being filled by Montgomery nominees — many of them from *Today*. Worse still the *Mirror* is becoming increasingly ridiculous. David Banks, the editor of what was once a great crusading newspaper, will not speak to journalists who want to write about his activities. Once upon a time readers laughed with the *Mirror* at the follies of the world. Now the world is laughing at the *Mirror*.

Commentators, with a variety of vested interests, will continue to attribute the *Mirror* crisis to causes which suit their convenience. No doubt the *Guardian* will repeat its complaint that Labour loses for uncritical support — an allegation which does not withstand even a superficial examination of the "old" *Mirror*'s attacks on the party's

attitude to issues which range from taxation to Northern Ireland. The *Mail* will write the story as if it were a Fleet Street soap opera. But that is the *Mail*'s style. The principal participant — David Montgomery — will claim that the critical moment signed by 170 Labour MPs was the result of trade union pressure. The truth is far more simple. The *Mirror* Group is being run by a man who by temperament and belief is unsuited to the task. The intriguing question concerns more than the future of three newspapers. How long will the banks go on supporting a decision which, whatever its superficial attractions in the autumn, was clearly a mistake? After all, it is the financial community which continues to advise politicians not to invest in failure.

ROY HATTERSLEY

The shenanigans at the *Daily Mirror* must mystify the punters, missed as they are to journalists warning that their newspaper is in danger of becoming less biased than it used to be. Stranger yet, some *Mirror* hacks recoil in horror at their paper "moving to the right" if it is, that only reflects the drift of Labour itself. Most of the *Mirror* dissidents occupy an ideological hilltop long since surrendered by Labour. In the late 1960s I was a sub-editor at the broadsheet *Sun*, which was a brave (meaning doomed) attempt to re-invent the *Daily Herald*. The latter had been the official voice of the Labour party, therefore it was led astray. Not the least of the reasons the *Herald* died was that, like Labour more recently, it lost touch with its own constituency. That left the *Mirror* as the sole mass-circulation voice of the left. It succeeded by covering news and issues that interested ordinary people: it was a mirror.

The *Mirror* dissidents say that Robert Maxwell was bad but under David Montgomery things are even worse. Really? Most of the pensioners Maxwell swindled would surely differ. The fact is that tabloid newspapers survive on cover price. Either they sell enough to make a profit, or they go bust. Circulations are in long-term decline, so tabloids must cut costs to make profit. They must follow their readers into the ex-council houses they own, outside which are parked two cars.

Recession is painful, but recessions pass. Most *Mirror* readers work. Most are far better off than were their *Mirror*-buying parents. The *Mirror* as slave to Labour has stood like a sandcastle at low water and has duly been washed over by four successive electoral tides. It was Labour's failed past that led the pack buying for blood in the Commons last week.

There may be valid arguments about Montgomery's management style, which is not helped by the fact that he appears to have undergone a charisma bypass. But to parade these as political principles is simply bogus. If *Mirror* journalists think that a newspaper can succeed by being Labour's house journal they should start one. They could use the title *Daily Herald*: nobody else does.

PETER BARNARD

## A wealth of health

Three new magazines are aimed at improving our lives — and their profits

I knew I had to stop being a fashion editor when I found myself promoting the global significance of "sleeves". Over the previous two years I had featured everything from children's ankle socks to lime black dresses — twice. Sleeves seemed to be almost all that was left — although I was secretly planning a stunning piece on bust darts.

So anyone who can do a whole page on eyebrows deserves my admiration. It's the obsessive tone of the prose that seduces me ("...there is nothing worse than patchy brows"). Um, hang nail on your stockings maybe? or piles? starvation?

You have to be fairly obsessive to launch and edit 100 pages a month on one subject. Although one subject is not what the new rash of health and beauty magazines think they are tackling. We are a woman's magazine with an emphasis on health, they all say.

So what are women's magazines made of? Sex, cellulite, hair, diet, fashion and angst. And this is more or less what the new monthly titles *Good Health*, *Top Santé* and *Health & Beauty* (both £1.30), and *Health and Lifestyle* (£1.60) are promising. *Good Health* is new from Redwood Publishing, a BBC Enterprises company. In design style it is similar to their successful food and fashion titles: clear and concise type faces taking you by the hand around each page. The first issue was apparently a sell-out at 160,000.

All three magazines are addicted to facts — the kind of multi-layered, good magazine journalism that gives value for money. *Good Health* tells us that there have been more than 200 studies into quitting smok-

ing and that smokers raise their hands to their mouths 73,000 times a year. Where they fall down is on the gee-whizz headlines. Everyone knows you are unlikely to "Beat stress in a week", but by doing some perfectly sensible things suggested in the piece, like eating lots of vegetables and drinking camomile tea, you might feel a bit better over several weeks.

You might expect BBC's *Good Health* to be full of cross references to TV shows but it isn't. *Top Santé* is, though. There is a centre pull-out section on upcoming shows, each one giving an excuse to address a relevant subject: Mariella Fostrop is experiencing erotic dreams as a result of her nicotine patches; the growing-old-disgracefully "Brighton Belles" lead us into a fact-packed piece about ageing — a doctor believes that natural human death will be eliminated by the year 2110.

There is what aficionados of the women's press call a "Hey, Doreen" factor about these pieces. "Hey, Doreen — you see this bit about living for ever?" But *Top Santé*, the British version (launched by Presse Publishing) of a successful French magazine, is shiny, visually satisfying and out tomorrow.

I have seen the cover and a few pages from the new *What Diet & Lifestyle* magazine. Re-titled *Health and Lifestyle*, its drastic surgery recognises that slimming diets are no longer the pull they once were and that what we want most is good health, good looks and a decent lifestyle. Again packed with facts — like the number of people who share a deodorant has halved since 1987 — *Health and Lifestyle* will be out at the end of March.

### COVER STORY

Jane Reed



Shiny: Top Santé

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## RADIO page 34

Walter Matthau gives a masterly performance as an elderly scientist in a new Fay Weldon play



## TELEVISION page 35

Jimmy Reid describes how he lost his faith in communism in a Channel 4 documentary



## ARTS

## They still got rhythm

Billed as a 'new' Gershwin musical, the Broadway hit *Crazy for You* opens here next week. Richard Morrison reports

Picture that glittering night in New York 62 years ago. Wall Street might have crashed, but Broadway was still paved with gold. Or so it must have seemed during the first performance of *Girl Crazy*, the latest musical from the infallible brothers Gershwin.

The story was the usual flimsy frumpy. New York playboy eludes creditors and jilted girlfriends by escaping to Arizona ranch, only to transform it into a nightclub with hordes of prancing beauties. But who cared about plot? What mattered was the string of vintage showstoppers from George and Ira: "Embraceable You", "I Got Rhythm", "But Not For Me", "I'm Biding My Time".

The pit band comprised the hottest instrumentalists in town — among them, two ambitious twentysomethings called Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller. And on stage, a star was born. Plucked from obscurity in provincial vaudeville, Ethel Merman mesmerised the audience with a voice that was as all-American as a Sousa march, and twice as brassy. Merman even overshadowed the female romantic lead: another promising newcomer called Ginger Rogers. Nobody was surprised when *Girl Crazy* notched up 272 performances, least of all Gershwin, whose self-esteem was as unshakable as his musical genius.

Wouldn't it be wonderful, Gershwin fans always sigh, for such a show to be recreated exactly, and for those superb songs — mangled by ten thousand crooners in the 62 years since their genesis — to be heard again in their original context? Well, the prayers of the Gershwin fans are about to be answered, or perhaps half-answered. For as its title suggests, *Crazy for You*, which opens in the West End next week, is not exactly *Girl Crazy*.

It is billed cutely as a "new Gershwin musical comedy". But just five of its 19 songs are from *Girl Crazy*, and the original, preposterous plot has been thoroughly overhauled by the dramatist Ken Ludwig. Nevertheless, *Crazy For*

You have emulated its predecessor in terms of Broadway success: its backers have already seen their \$7.5 million investment recouped, and a further £3 million has been spent bringing the show to the newly refurbished Prince Edward Theatre in London.

In fact, Ludwig's new plot is hardly less daft, and certainly no less escapist, than the original. The stage-struck scion of a rich banking family is sent to foreclose a theatre in a run-down Nevada mining town. He pretends to be a Ziegfeld-like impresario, which leads into one of those "let's put on a show, kids, and save the day" finales that so entranced the fans of Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland.

Why, then, did *Crazy For You*'s creators not simply revive the original *Girl Crazy*? A question for Elizabeth Williams, the American co-producer.

"It was a show that did not work that well then, and certainly would not now," she replies firmly. "We now expect a 'book musical', in which songs advance the plot and express character and emotion. In the 1930s this was not the case: 'Embraceable You' and 'I Got Rhythm' had very little to do with the show. They were really set-pieces, often written for specific performers."

There is truth in this. Gershwin, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern represented the generation which, Moses-like, glimpsed the promised land of the integrated, dramatically-credible musical, but were destined never to reach it. Each had his one big shot at "grand" musical theatre (*Porgy and Bess*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Show Boat* respectively), but it was left to Rodgers and Hammerstein in the late 1940s to define the "book musical" consistently.

Having decided to resuscitate *Girl Crazy*, Williams made some shrewd moves. First she got the notoriously prickly Gershwin heirs on her side. "I needed their permission not just to rehash the book, but to use other Gershwin songs. It would be extremely difficult



Gershwin crazy: co-producer Elizabeth Williams outside the Prince Edward Theatre (above); and (below) Ira and George at work, as seen by the cartoonist Hirschfeld



to be limited to the original ones. I didn't have much hope that this would happen, but the Gershwins gave me their blessing, provided there were no changes to Ira's lyrics."

Then she contacted Ludwig to write the new book (on the strength of his period comedy *Lend Me A Tenor*) and Mike Ockrent to direct the show (after his highly successful exercise in nostalgia, the West End revival of *Me And My Girl*). What of the 14 songs that are not from *Girl Crazy*? Some are straightforward burlesques like "Someone To Watch Over Me" lifted straight from other Gershwin shows. But others are true discoveries, part of a haul that came to light in New Jersey a few years ago.

"Many were either used in shows, or rejected from them, and then lost — because shows were not recorded then. For example, we use 'What Causes That', which was from *Treasure Girl*, a show done here in 1937 with Gertrude Lawrence; and I believe that our unpublished song, 'Tonight's The Night', was also in that show."

Williams enlisted the help of a Gershwin archivist, Tommy Krasker, to dig out suitable material. "Mike Ockrent and Ken Ludwig would get to a point where they

needed a song. They would describe the mood and scene to Tommy, who would do his archival work and then sit at the piano and play suggestions."

Gosh, it sounds just like one of those "let's put on a show, kids" musicals. But let nobody underesti-

mate the serious intent or intellectual capabilities of those putting on this particular show. Ockrent has a physics degree; Ludwig is a Washington lawyer; and associate producer Richard Godwin, a former US under-secretary of defence, lists among his credits "participating in

the development of the US thermo-nuclear weapon". That must have been a first for Broadway.

As for Williams, she holds a doctorate in archaeology, and would now probably still be teaching at the University of California if she had not been invited to advise an oil company on which arts projects to invest in. She recommended taking a stake in an unlikely French musical called *Les Misérables*. One thing led to another after that remarkable hunch, and she is now one of the most sought-after producers on Broadway.

So how does she respond to the kind of mixed reviews which *Crazy For You* received in New York, despite its box-office success? Frank Rich, in *The New York Times*, waxed ecstatic about it, though some found it difficult to tell whether he liked the show because it was brilliant or simply because it was not British. "When future historians try to find the exact moment at which Broadway finally rose up to grab the musical back from the British, they just may conclude that the revolution began last night," he wrote, presumably on a desk draped with a star-spangled banner.

But it was precisely this point —

that Broadway was resisting the conquering wave of new British musicals only by clutching at 60-year-old songs and lyrics — which other critics seized upon as the weakest aspect of *Crazy For You*. In *Time* magazine, for instance, William Henry berated its "shameless retrospection, its bland assertion that Broadway's future lies in its past."

Williams, not surprisingly, does not see it like that at all. "I'd agree that a new production of *Gypsies And Dogs*, with the same book, lyrics and music, is nothing but a straight revival. But here, although composer and lyricist are dead, everybody else is young, very smart, and alive. This show is almost a homage to the 1930s, yet it could only be done this way now. It is an entertainment that will lift people, and I hope people in Britain will recognise it as being in the archetypal American musical mould: a huge dance show."

Well, the social and economic landscapes certainly look more and more like the early 1930s. So there is probably no reason why a "new musical" with 19 Gershwin songs cannot be wildly successful, either.

● *Crazy for You* is in preview at the Prince Edward Theatre (071-734 8951), opening next Wednesday

## Street scene makes vivid drama

A pioneering community theatre group aims to help homeless people express their frustrations

London's theatregoers need little introduction to homelessness. It is almost impossible to leave a West End play and remain unaware of the figures huddled along the Strand.

But few theatregoers will perceive the drama hidden inside a cardboard box or sleeping bag. Many homeless people have a story to tell as theatrical as the tragedies enacted every night in theatres across the West End: street theatre, quite literally.

Thanks to a pioneering community theatre company, homeless people now have a chance to use theatre to help make sense of their lives, and to inform the public of their dramas. They are not extras but protagonists. Cardboard Citizens took their first curtain-call this month at the Albany Empire in Deptford, south London.

The performance was the culmination of two years' work by the community theatre group London Bubble, which works with the deaf as well as the homeless. The company specialises in "forum theatre", a medium invented by the Brazilian theatre director Augusto Boal in which the audience can influence the course of the play's action. The plays are run twice. During the second run, people in the audience are encouraged to shout "stop" whenever they want to intervene in the action.

A nucleus of eight full-time members emerged from the dozens who took part in the forum-theatre workshops which the London Bubble ran in London hostels. Though Cardboard Citizens still work with the parent company of London Bubble, their intention is to become an independent company run by and working for homeless people.

In reality, none of the group's members is still forced to sleep rough. Since they have become involved with London Bubble, most have been housed in council property, but at least one member returns to a hostel after his perfor-



Cardboard Citizens: conveying the reality of homelessness

mance. They are paid Equity rates by London Bubble.

Their plays draw on their experience of homelessness. It is the stuff of nightmares: drug addiction, isolation, loneliness, prostitution, mental instability, unemployment and alcoholism.

But the show is witnessed mixed with horror with humour. It was full of imaginative strokes and jokes to lighten the darkness. The effect was to convey the reality of homelessness more vividly than any number of statistics.

It told the story of Steve, a 16-year-old living in a large northern city. His father was in prison; his mother took up with his father's best friend. Steve felt excluded by the arrival in the house of a new man and his son. Rows ensued, then violence.

He left to London a fellow homeless youth introduced him to drugs and the Piccadilly Advice Centre where middle-class charity was mercilessly ripped off. The hallucination scene was spine-chilling. Prison followed. Then more

drugs. The last scene saw Steve asking: "Spare any change?"

The play was then run a second time. But this time members of the audience shouted stop when they felt Steve might have handled his fate differently. They acted out an alternative course, supervised by a "facilitator". Their performance continued until it was clear whether the new strategy was working.

This was the first performance in front of a non-homeless audience, and a one-off. Cardboard Citizens intends to continue performing in hostels of the homeless, because that is where it feels its mission can be best fulfilled, though occasional performances will be given to regular audiences to increase awareness.

Jon Fitzmaurice, the director of the housing charity Char, has witnessed Cardboard Citizens at work. He is convinced that "the work identifies and tackles real-life problems. It enables people to become personally involved in the solutions and develops priceless communication skills."

Gary Gallard, a member of Cardboard Citizens, echoed Fitzmaurice. "Most people who are homeless don't want to admit their problems or how frustrated they are. Theatre allows them to express those frustrations."

One of the most frustrating things about being homeless is not having any rights, Gallard continued. "You've got all day to think about life, death and the universe, but no opportunity to express yourself. The best thing about our performances is that it gives the people who've been there a chance to intervene in their own situations, to suggest solutions. They're not just faces in a box or sleeping bag."

## RACHEL KELLY

● Cardboard Citizens is currently rehearsing a new play which will go on tour in March. For further details, contact the Bubble Theatre company on 071-237 4434

THE Prince of Wales has asked the Royal Shakespeare Company to organise two special summer schools aimed at enhancing the Bard's reputation in the classroom.

To be called the Prince of Wales Shakespeare School, it will consist of two 12-day courses for teachers of English and drama in secondary schools. It sounds as if the teachers will be required to do some serious homework themselves: each course will focus on one play and will be "studied through textual analysis, in performance and as a set text". Directors, designers and actors will do the teaching at The Other Place theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Adrian Noble, artistic director of the RSC, said that the course was an "acknowledgement of the fact that the process of teaching Shakespeare shares a great deal with the process of rehearsing a Shakespeare play". The courses were devised by Wendy Greenhill, the RSC's head of education, in consultation with Prince Charles. No doubt the school motto will come from his Shakespeare Birthday Lecture given in April 1991. "Shakespeare's message is the universal, timeless one, yet clad in the garments of our time. He is not our poet, but the world's," he said on that occasion.

● SEVENTIES nostalgia is rampant — even, it seems, in London's art-house cinemas. The Minema Cinema in Knightsbridge is mounting a season of Seventies movies, to mark the 21st birthday of the Berkeley Hotel, in which the cinema is encased. The month-long season includes the sentimental *Love Story*, the sumptuous *Death in Venice* and *Don Giovanni*, and the existentially lubricious *Last Tango in Paris*, as well as *Apocalypse Now* and *Padre Padrone*. It kicks off on Friday with *Cabaret* and *Performance*.

## Elderly butterfly

THE Royal Opera will soon announce its plans for next season, and one surprise may be the production to open in September. It will be *Madam Butterfly* — but

## ARTS BRIEFING

## Prince backs the Bard

probably not the 1988 production by the Spanish director Nuria Espert, but the 1950 version which was originally directed by Robert Helpmann and originally sung by Victoria de los Angeles. The sets — brilliant blue and blossom trees by Sophie Fedorovitch — are fondly remembered, but the revival of such an elderly production must reflect a lack of confidence in the newer production.

● OPENED on a Sunday for the first time last weekend, the Victoria and Albert Museum celebrated its new day of public access (10am to 5.50pm) with live jazz brunches. Sunday opening will not cost the museum a great deal extra, because staff are on the



Robert Helpmann in 1941: see Elderly Butterfly

premises seven days a week — guarding the galleries and maintaining the museum. And it is hoped that the voluntary donations given on Sundays will cover the extra costs. This Sunday visitors can take in the jazz band Jerry Sunfluk and his Capital Swing.

## Head hunted

THE purchase of a bust of a former Labour leader of Glasgow City Council, Pat Lally, by the director of Glasgow Art Galleries, Julian Spalding, has ruffled feathers, both political and artistic, in Glasgow. The sculpture was made by the neo-Classicist Alexander Stoddart, who was apparently inspired to pay this artistic compliment to Lally by the council leader's decisive anti-Modernist stance: he insisted upon the removal of a series of murals commissioned from artist Ian McCulloch for the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

In the 11th-hour work the subject sports the Phrygian cap of the "ordinary man". Thanks to Spalding, the sculptor is now better off to the tune of £10,000. But Glasgow's current Labour regime, whose allegiance to Lally is somewhat fragile, has reprimanded the director of their art galleries for shelling out public money in this direction, and it is now unlikely that the public will be given the chance to admire the bust.

## Last chance...

DAVID POUNTNEY's squalidly realistic *Carmen*, which moves the action of Bizet's Spanish drama to a scrapyard in Latin America, may not have been universally admired on its first outing in 1988, but nobody could deny that it was striking. Seven years on, in its first revival at ENO (Coliseum, 071-836 3161, ends Friday), the staging still has the power to startle, and the performances — Sally Burgess's vibrant Carmen, Edmund Barham's grimly inarticulate José, Donald Maxwell's swaggering Escamillo — convince even where some of Pountney's ideas do not.



## LONDON

**SONS AND MOTHERS:** Rachel Kempson (Lady Rodgrave) and her son, Conn Rodgrave, will be performing extracts on the subject of sons and mothers. Followed by Love from Shakespeare to Coward an anthology of works by British writers about theatre and theatre people.

**THE CONCERT ASSOCIATION:** 20 Bedford Street, WC2, (071-836 4203). Tonight, 8pm.

**FREIWORK:** As part of the Early Music Series, Catherine Bott and Freiwort perform songs for the Elizabethan stage including works by Robert White, Richard Mulcaster and William Byrd and pieces for five voices by Monteverdi and Lully.

**THE TURN OF THE TIDE:** The City of London Sinfonia under Adrian Leaper perform Matthew Gwynne's *The Turn of the Tide* (19th London performance), St Martin's, 7.30pm. Tickets, 10p.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST:** Oscar Wilde's classic comedy is being staged by the Royal National Theatre at the Old Vic, 111 St Martin's Lane, W1, (071-239 0700). Preview tonight, 7.30pm. Tickets, 10p.

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## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Heather Alston

**St John's, Smith Square, London SW1** (071-222 1081). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**ON THE PISTE:** The comic hazards of hunting about on the snow, as seen by John Galsworthy. The stage includes a 30-foot ski slope.

**SNOW ORCHID:** Paolo Bonolis in London Gay Theatre's British premiere of Joseph Pardo's 1976 (pre-Aids) drama of a New York family finding a whole lot to worry about.

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**FAIRPORT CONVENTION:** The only London concert this year of the English folk-rock group with a repertoire of old classic songs and fresh new influences. Bushell Hall, South Bank, SE1, (071-828 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**REGIONAL**

**BIRMINGHAM:** Simon Pottle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra continue their progress towards the millennium with an imaginative, wide-ranging 1920s programme that includes Stravinsky's *Les Noces* and the *Violin Concerto* by the Virgin Mary and Stabat Mater with Barok (The Marvellous Melodist) and Stabat Mater (Symphony No 7). With Elizabetha Symon, Florence Quaver and John Corneil. Symphony Hall, Broad Street, (021-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**PORTSMOUTH:** The new band Suede are on tour and about to release their debut album. Pyramid Centre (0705 877888). Tonight, 7.30pm. Tickets, 10p.

**MIDLEBOROUGH:** The dance music of the 1950s, taken to the road to promote Gorgon, their new album. Arena, (0425 251854). Tonight, 8pm. Tickets, 10p.

**MANCHESTER:** Opera North presents a double bill of the opera, *Yolande*, and Tchaikovsky's ballet, *Aurora*, by the concertmaster, Christopher Matthew Baines and featuring the dancers of his *Adventures in Motion* Pictures company. Yolande with the Nutcracker's original partner at the St Petersburg premiere on December 18, 1952. With Billy Budd and Don Carlo. Opera House, Quay Street, (0161-235 5522). Yolande and Nutcracker, tonight, 7.15pm. Slay Budd, tomorrow, 7.15pm. Don Carlo, Sat, 7.15pm.

**LA MUSICA:** Very intense dedication of past love by Marguerite Duras. Haniel Walter's charged performance provides insight. Playhouse Theatre, (071-722 5301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm. 10p. Final week.

**NO MAN'S LAND:** Paul Eddington and the author in a tense, sharply comic. Playhouse Theatre, (071-722 5301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm. 10p.

**THE PRISONERS OF WAR:** Lively production of J.R. Ackerley's comedy about British officers interned by the Germans during the war. Playhouse Theatre, (071-722 5301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm. 10p.

**TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT:** William Goyen's play about a woman's journey. Playhouse Theatre, (071-722 5301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm. 10p.

**THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA:** David Threlkeld's witty comedy about two men who meet in Verona. Playhouse Theatre, (071-722 5301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm. 10p.

**THE LAST YANKEE:** Subtle and touching play about a man who returns home. Playhouse Theatre, (071-722 5301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm. 10p.

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## Victoria McKee asks if British artists experience American-style pressure from moral crusaders



The National Theatre's 1980 production of Brenton's play *The Romans in Britain* taken to court by Mary Whitehouse, but the show went on

## Good sense, or censorship?

The enforced resignation of the crusading John Frowmayer as chairman of America's National Endowment for the Arts a year ago, coupled with the earlier uproar over a show of sexually explicit photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe, raised awkward questions in America about arts censorship in a "free" society. Now Bill Clinton is ensconced in the White House, artists and arts organisations in America are breathing a collective sigh of relief.

But what about here in Britain? Could the hysteria which until recently engulfed the arts community in America be repeated here? In Britain the major "arts wars" in recent years have been over questions of elitism and accessibility: the street theatre mob vs the opera nob, popular culture vs the avant-garde. Anthony Everitt, secretary general of the Arts Council, believes there are historical reasons for this, going back to the days of the second world war when the predecessor to the Arts Council, CEMA — the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts — was formed. CEMA had a broad approach to culture, as much interested in participation and amateur work as in professional. But then the first chairman of the Arts Council, John Maynard Keynes, thought CEMA's work was social welfare-ism at its worst. So the questions of elitism and access go back to the difference in philosophy between CEMA's commitment to what was called "spread" and the Arts



# Infinite variety unstaled by customers

If the prolific team of Dixon and Jones has no architectural trademark, it is because each design is different, says Marcus Binney

After a decade of waiting for the proposed Royal Opera House extension to become a reality, again, four substantial projects are now nearing completion, and more are on the drawing board.

In 1983, Dixon's design for remodelling the Opera House in Covent Garden, beat 120 other entries in an open competition. But the sheer number of offices required to finance the improvements brought him into conflict with the likes of the local community association, which had fought long and hard to preserve the character of the area from large-scale redevelopment.

Although overall planning permission was granted in 1990, the plan is now to proceed in small stages, beginning with premises at the corner of James Street and the square for the Royal Ballet. "We are proceeding in self-contained stages that have a purpose in their own right," Dixon says. "This is the best way of constantly invigorating a very long-term project."

What makes him and Edward Jones, his partner, different from other major names in modern British architecture is that they do not have an overtly recognisable style. Each building they design is a response to context, client and location. At Aberdeen, where the polytechnic has just become a university, they have designed new student housing (to be completed this autumn) on a ridge above the River Dee. "We wanted to disturb the mature planting as little as possible, yet take advantage of the fine views," Dixon says. "So we

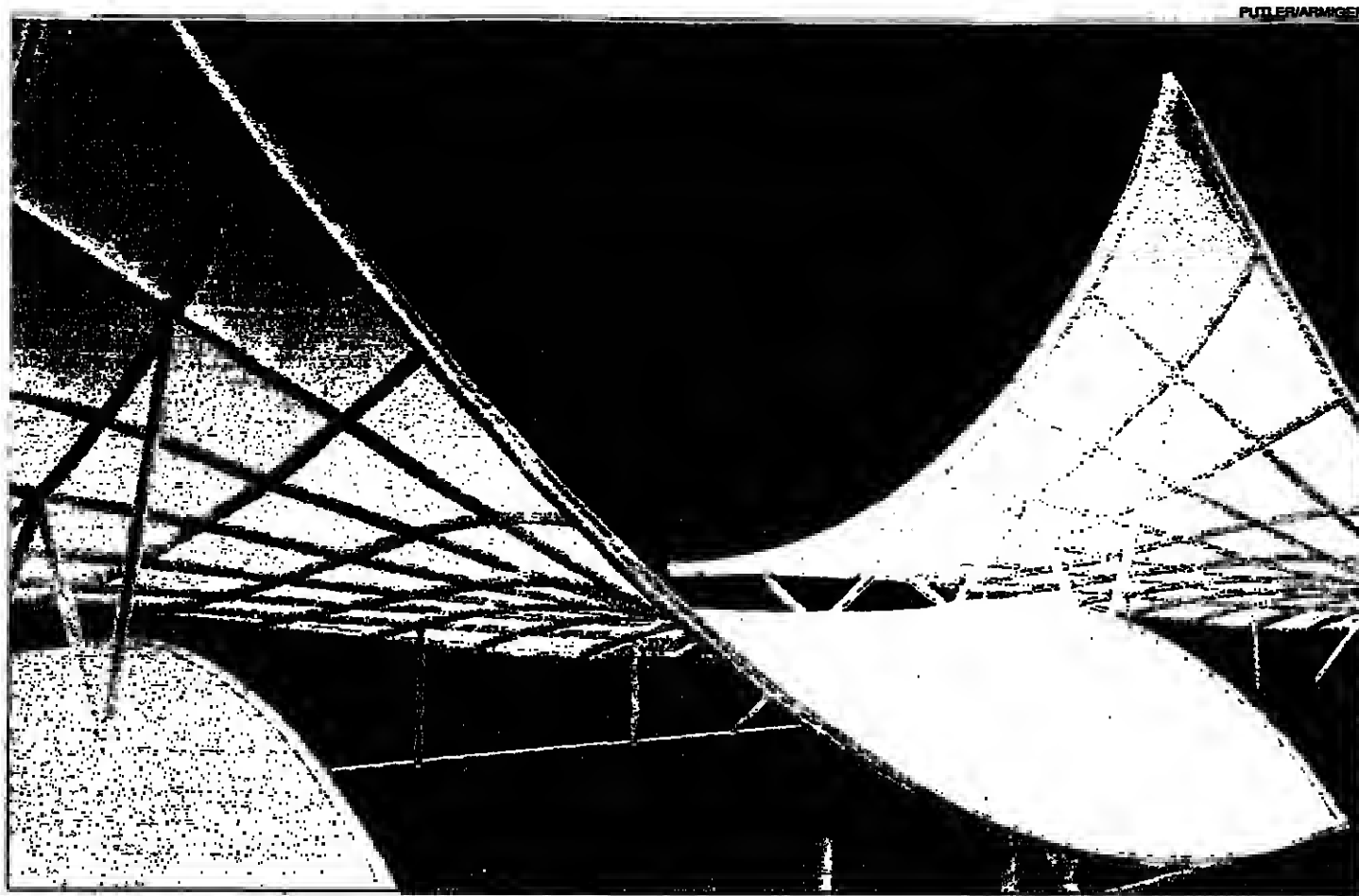
looked at the fortified tower houses in Grampian and proposed a series of small towers, the first circular, the second square."

Here is an architecture of pure form, without mouldings, and relying on the proportion of windows and the rough-textured pink surface. By contrast to the insistent "statements of our time" familiar at universities in the 1970s and 1980s, these are buildings with an ageless quality, designed to blend into the landscape at once.

Dixon and Jones won a competition in 1989 for a new study centre at Darwin College, in Cambridge. This was a hypersensitive site on the Backs by the millpond where the punts collect; any new building on such a famous and beautiful site was likely to be controversial. Initially rebuffed by the local authority, they won on appeal.

In deference to its position on the water, the building — which will be finished by Christmas — is constructed entirely of wood. "It's like a continuous piece of furniture, all made of oak floors, bookshelves, rafters, windows," Dixon says. "It is designed with balconies, external stairs, all the places where you might want to sit and read a book."

By contrast, the partnership's new store for Sainsbury, outside Plymouth, is designed to assert itself in the landscape. The site is highly visible from both the A38 and trains as they approach Plymouth. "The challenge was to make a basically low building register at a distance and hold its own as people sped past," Dixon says. The leitmotif is a series of overlapping white sails — a natural symbol for a port. They took their first design to the



White sails in the sale set: the model for Dixon and Jones's design of a new Sainsbury's store in Plymouth has a suitably nautical feel

brilliant Irish engineer Peter Rice at Arups, who came up with an ingenious construction of Teflon stretched and stitched over an undulating steel and timber skeleton. "Teflon structures tend to end up as bell or tent-shapes because of the strings that pull them away from the mast. We wanted to avoid guy wires and achieve a waving effect, first concave then convex," Dixon says.

Rice tragically died before he

could refine his idea, and for a while the project looked in doubt. But Dixon and Jones found Martin Manning, another engineer at Arups, who simplified the structure. At night the white "sails", illuminated from below, will be even more eye-catching when they are completed in the summer of 1994.

The huge sails will also have a practical function, deflecting the harsh west winds from the car park.

Dixon is intrigued by the idea of using parked cars to make satisfying formal patterns. "Cars are obedient things," he says. "I once became fascinated by the way cars crawled into lines on a hill above Wimbledon during the tennis tournament."

Their £5 million sculpture gallery in Leeds, funded by the Henry Moore Foundation, opens on April 22. Here they have adapted and extended three 19th-century wool

merchants' offices near the town hall. A new entrance front has been formed by adding a crudely exposed party wall with flamed and polished granite — a piece of abstract sculpture in itself.

For Dixon the gallery raised fundamental questions of the nature of exhibition space. "The usual brief is that the building mustn't interfere with the works of art inside," he says. "This means simple space, where lighting is all

But we found that artists have very different opinions. Some like neutral space, but others prefer reacting to the nature of a place."

Open, anonymous competitions have always been a mainstay of the partners' work. Their first great success came in 1972 when, with Dixon's wife Fenella, they won the commission for new county offices in Northamptonshire. Their design was a startling ten-storey pyramid, but it fell foul of local politics and government spending cuts. The pyramid was a reference to the hierarchy of local government, with the council chamber at the top.

In sober England it was taken by some as a parody. But Dixon still takes pleasure in explaining the intricacies. "In ancient Egypt holes were drilled in pyramids to cast a shaft of light on a particular day. We designed one to land on the county treasurer's desk on the first day of the financial year."

Ten years later Jones won a competition (against 245 submissions) for a new city hall at Mississauga, Ontario. This is a powerfully composed cluster of big geometric shapes that grew out of sketches of pure form done by the Italian architect Aldo Rossi. It took Jones to Canada for several years and, on his return, he and Dixon entered another open competition for a new bus station in Venice, this time beating 265 other entrants with a supremely elegant circular design.

What makes a competition appealing to enter? Dixon's answer is unhesitating. "The jury. If it is one browbeaten architect and a load of councillors, forget it." At Venice there was a line-up of the world's leading architects: Raphael Moneo from Spain, James Stirling from Britain, I.M. Pei from America and Arata Isozaki from Japan. After the minefield of Covent Garden, the judgment of their peers was the best endorsement they could wish for.

## OPERA REVIEWS

### A model lesson in direction

When in doubt, look for the subtle *Così fan tutte*, or *The School for Lovers*. Director Clare Venables — who is seldom stuck for an idea, but just might have been here — has set her new production for English

**Così fan tutte**  
Sadler's Wells

Touring Opera in a turn-of-the-century art college (Wimbledon School of Art) if the programme pictures are anything to go by, and they usually are. She has given us all a lesson or two in Mozartian tone and perspective in the process.

The curtain rises on a class busy at its easels, its sculpted heads and its anatomy; the store cupboards of the Royal College of Art, Slade and Winsor & Newton have been well and truly rifled.

Ferrando models: Guglielmo paints. Fiordiligi paints: Dorabella models. Each other, of course, and the girls even take Polaroid photographs of the images they adore.

Don Alfonso is one of those tormenting teachers who prods the clay and slashes his brush across the canvas just when you think you are half-way to a masterpiece. And, of course, they all have much to learn beyond mere anatomy.

Venables' concept is worked out in such graphic and witty detail, thanks to the design assistance of Edit Nathan and costume designer Lucy Bevan, that it would be tempting to write about nothing else.

But, as she showed with her enchanting *Magic Flute* for Opera Northern Ireland in 1990, Venables is not just a director with a thesis.

Now, as then, her ears are sharp to pick up every flicker of humour and pain within the music. And her mind and eye counterpoint these with production ideas which actually make us hear more of Mozart himself.

With Ivor Bolton at the podium, and every aspect of this production meticulously



Mozart of the century: Andrew Burden (left) and Meurig Davies in *Così fan tutte*

musically prepared, this was a double delight. When Mozart plays a musical game of pairs (mirror-image phrases, duelling in parallel thirds and sixths) Venables answers with a droll twinning of disguised lovers, in identical velvet suits and bowlers, one shocking salmon pink, one lime green. As the game-playing turns to greater sorrow than even Don Alfonso could have anticipated, the pairing falls apart.

Act I's rich play of visual and aural ironies (compounded,

incidentally, by the eclectic wit of Jeremy Sams's English translation) gives way to an ever-sharpening differentiation of character and dilemma.

Charles Johnston is alert to the subterranean raging of this young Don Alfonso; Eleanor Bennett, particularly in her virtuoso and savage send-up of medical science, to the high intelligence and raw wounds at the heart of this Desdemona.

Meurig Davies has the power in his baritone for the sharp

anger of this Guglielmo, and Andrew Burden the felicitous, honeyed tenor for this Ferrando.

Julie Urwin is a firebrand of a Dorabella with a voice to match. Catherine Pierard, not on top form on the first night, nevertheless drew a grave beauty out of the insecurity of Fiordiligi. Catch it if you can, some time between now and May 29, and somewhere on the spring tour between Barnstaple and Carlisle.

HILARY FINCH

### How Verdi were my valleys

**Un Ballo in maschera**  
New Theatre, Cardiff

fawn colours prevailing as Carl Oberle's tiered platforms rotate around the stage, giving a slightly different angle on each theme before finally lining up as a horizontal stairway for the fatal masked ball of the tide.

But the emotions and the music are 100 per cent Italian. And so there we are at the core of Verdi's opera. How different from the suspended bedsteads that have been produced for *Ballo* elsewhere.

Welsh National Opera's casting is also vocally spot-on. Richard Margison's Gustav is a man of substantial appetites:

he has an eye both for Oscar's trim ankles and the fuller-blown charms of Amelia. His tenor is even bigger. It might not carry the ripeness or finesse for the barcarole, but tenors with far more illustrious names would have been proud of the power and dignity Margison breathed into the last quarter of an hour of the opera.

Lisa Gasten's Amelia was not going to be outdone in the matter of decibels. Like Margison she is fearless, but the voice does go through the occasional coarse patch. Still, in Amelia's plea to embrace once more her soo Gasten (who later makes an unscheduled appearance), she displayed some real feminine warmth. She looks a likely prospect for Aida in a couple of years.

Flu reportedly affected some of the other performers. Donald Maxwell's Anckarsstrom, survivor of the 1982 *Ballo*, was forced to squeeze some

notes in "Eri Tu", but remained a powerful supporter of marital fidelity. Rebecca Evans' Oscar, cheeky and rouge-cheeked, was a bit too feminine. Anne-Marie Owens' soothsayer was clearly the queen of the Stockholm waterfront, even though she took her time to recognise a king.

Carlo Rizzi, after a cautious start, gave singers and orchestra their respective heads. When the Act II love duet fills every cranny of the theatre, as it did on opening night, then true Verdi is in the air. This *Ballo*, original and thrilling and honest to its composer, is not to be missed as it tours the country this spring.

JOHN HIGGINS

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Rouble-rousing

**Jimmy Reid's tale of Soviet financial skulduggery was long on anger, short on surprises**

Jimmy Reid has put on a bit of weight since his days as a communist agitator, but he is still handsome, articulate and angry. "I came to hate a system that allowed innocents to die and made mothers weep," he says, flicking through the death certificates of his sisters ("Dysentery, pneumonia — but let me tell you the real cause was poverty"). The hateful system was capitalism. Now he has discovered another outlet for hatred: communism.

Moscow Gold (Channel 4) was supposed to be the story of how the Soviet Union had handed over millions of pounds to the European communist parties since the 1920s. It was a shabby tale, but should come as no surprise to any reader of newspapers over the past two years. And so Reid, the Glaswegian strike organiser and former member of the Communist Party national executive, interview his own life story with that of the corruption of the Soviet system. We cannot weep for the Politburocrats of Moscow and King Street but, by God, you can for poor Jimmy and his broken idols.

Reid opened with a silly spy-thriller reconstruction of a KGB man handing over cash to a British Communist Party middle man on a remote wooded lane in England. Did this happen? Well, yes, Reid had been to Moscow and dug up the handwritten receipts, some of them dating back to 1922. *Moscow Gold* did not exactly creak with research, but Reid was at his best when he drew a direct comparison between the financial condition of the Communist Party and the Labour Party in 1930. The British communists owned their own

premises in Covent Garden, maintained a big full-time staff, owned their own newspaper, publishing house and printing press — and yet did not have a single MP.

The Labour Party had to lease its headquarters, had no newspaper of its own and had to struggle by on a tiny fraction of the funds available to the Communist Party. That was the first betrayal for Reid. He had been brought up to believe that the Communist Party was run on the pathetically small offerings of impoverished workers and widows, not on fat wads of laundered cash delivered by the KGB.

After making this point with admirable clarity, Reid lost his drift. He spent a long time interviewing strike leaders

from the 1970s to prove that they did not receive a penny from Moscow. Sam McCluskie, the former leader of the Seamen's Union, was interviewed at the dog track. He told Reid: "I hated those people," meaning the few hard-nut communist agitators on the national executive of his union. "The Communist Party," Reid concluded, "was not interested in industrial mayhem, but it did want influence in the unions that it could not get through the ballot box."

In other words, Soviet money flowed into the British Communist Party machine to select and train unionists who would in turn shape union policy and the whole climate of industrial relations.

Did this really come as a surprise to Reid? He said he started to lose faith with the party in the 1960s, and especially after the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. But even after his break with communism, he must have seen how union politics was being run, how the party used its placement.

There were no great revelations in *Moscow Gold*. At least one secret remained intact throughout the programme: what does Reid believe nowadays? We were told he no longer thinks much of Lenin, who placed the principle of terror at the heart of communism. Nor does he respect the other early Bolsheviks whom he now calls "outrageously elitist."

But throughout the programme Reid was at pains to separate the teachings of Marx from the practice of Lenin, to present Lenin as a perversion. Can it be that, for all his anger about Paradise Lost, Reid is still a soft-Marxist, the very last Utopian?

ROGER BOYES



Jimmy Reid: betrayed by his idols

CONCERTS: An evening of new music at the Purcell Room; and an intense account of Tchaikovsky's Fifth at the Festival Hall

Searching for new sounds and new forms is all very well, but in this Purcell Room concert, given by the new music group Ixion, it was plain that, for some young composers, manner takes precedence over substance. Take Ben Morison's and Simon Opick's *Flute piano*, violin, cello, a 15-minute piece for the instruments named, to which each composer contributed two instrumental parts. We were not told the degree to which they collaborated, but the instrumentalists were not supposed to collaborate at all. They still managed to finish at more or less the same time: perhaps there had been too much rehearsal.

This music circled the same

### Surface noise

meditative, meandering orbit as the American composer Douglas Cohen's *Penetrating/Stillness* (1990), for flute and cello. Here were individual moments of beauty, but again one searched in vain for a solid core to this vague, New Age meditation.

Elsewhere all was outward effect, as in Günter Steinke's solo cello piece *C-Arco* (1988) — hideously difficult to perform, but lightweight in effect — and the Canadian James Rolfe's *Fêtes de la faims* (1991), an intentional destruction of Rimbaud's poem which contained all the pug-

nacious clichés in the book, including parts for, I think, brake drums. Very macho. Andrew Toovey (Ixion's director and guiding spirit) is, however, a composer of substance. His four Rilke songs for voice and violin, *Fallen* (1992), brief and to the point, each concentrate on simple structural devices. His other pieces here, *Pendu* and *Fast Net* for solo violin (1992/3), contrasted virtuosic night-mare-fantasy and ethereal, modal simplicity. Michael Finnissy's *Enek* (1989), also for solo violin, took its cue from fiddlers heard in Buda-

pest cafes. One recognised the relationship with rhetorical Magyar style, but the piece seemed to wander aimlessly.

Two works, however, stood out. James Clapperton's *Meditation in Weyntir*, for six players, was founded upon a solid source, William Dunbar's eponymous poem about this slowly twittering surface concealed an underlying melancholic, powerful lyricism. And the Korean Shinhuh Lee's *Space* (1992) for flute, clarinet and piano contained a wealth of strong ideas and was a cogent, if over-dense, structure. Ixion's playing was committed and sure throughout.

STEPHEN PETTIT

One of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's most memorable concerts last season included a performance of Tchaikovsky's Fifth under Kurt Masur. On Sunday at the Festival Hall Zubin Mehta gave the same work with the same orchestra, inviting unavoidable comparisons.

Where Masur's conception was compelling from first to last because of his mastery grasp of the symphony's organic structure, Mehta was less convincing in the early stages, but by the finale had everyone on the edge of their seats with the white hot intensity of his conducting.

Mehta's performance was more of an emotional roller-

### Mehta's white hot passion

coaster than Masur's powerfully crafted affair, with the inevitable consequence that in the dips, tension was inclined to sag. It was a reading of volatile — not to say neurotic — states, with unpredictable changes of dynamic and mood, capped by manic outbursts of passion.

In Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, things were very different. For a start, the soloist was the Japanese violinist

Midori, whose fragility of tone and delicacy of nuance are such that any accompanying orchestra is obliged to apply the brakes, at least metaphorically.

To his credit, Mehta subdued his forces in such a way that they never overwhelmed the soloist, who was free to weave her acutely sensitive way through this most tender-hearted of concertos. What Midori may lack in strength of tone she makes up for with the refinement of her musicality. It is a mark of her communicative abilities that she is able to make one hear the subtleties of this over-familiar work with new ears.

BARRY MILLINGTON

**TOMORROW**

The South Bank Centre presents

**The Alban Berg Quartet**

Chamber Group of the Year  
International Music Awards

Thurs 25 Feb 7.45pm  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

*String Quartets by*  
Haydn  
Lutoslawski  
Ravel

Tickets from £6.00  
Tel: 071-928 8800















## BBC2

- 6.45 **Open University:** An Introduction to Economics (4137540) 7.10  
Frederick the Great (2718498) 7.35 Writing and Unwriting  
Testimony (4474960)
- 6.50 **Broadcast News** (5098982) 8.15 **Westminster** (2328144)
- 9.00 **Play of the Week:** Educational programmes including, for children,  
1.20 **Green Glaciers** (8232937) 1.35 **Dilly the Dinosauro**  
(90130144)
- 9.00 **News and weather** followed by **You and I** (51367347) 2.15  
**Carriacou:** Michael King talks with Claude Lorrain's Landscape  
painter with a view of the **Porte Maitie** which hangs at the  
Birmingham City Art Gallery (5136138) 2.35 **Country File:** John  
Craven explores rural issues (1252108)
- 9.30 **News** (CeeFax) and weather (7720622) followed by **World Views:**  
The Midland Bank Indoor chambers (3) Includes **News**  
(CeeFax), regional news and weather (54853708)
- 9.10 **Horizont:** The Persian Bazaar, the Jews and the ancient Egyptians  
build the pyramids? (1) (CeeFax) (1) (1834078)
- 9.40 **Star Trek:** Classic science fiction adventures starring William  
Shatner and Leonard Nimoy (860182)
- 9.50 **DFI Int'l Reportage:** An investigation into how easy it is to become  
trapped into a debt of credit (1) (559618)
- 9.55 **Nature on Earth:** Oil on Troubled Waters. The first of a series of  
five programmes **Report** from the Shetlands and the English  
Channel on the risks to Britain's coastline from oil spillage. (CeeFax)  
(723322)
- 9.10 **Timepieces:** The Secret File of J. Edgar Hoover  
● **CeeFax:** We knew he was a monster but not as big a monster as  
this. J. Edgar Hoover ran the FBI in the thirties and forties  
became a national hero for cleaning up gangsters such as John  
Dillinger and Bonnie and Clyde. The Mafia was a different and more  
serious matter. Up to the late fifties, despite abundant evidence,  
Hoover insisted that the Mob did not exist. Taking its cue from a new  
book by Anthony Summers, the film says the Mafia had good  
reasons to feel that way. It had a powerful Hoover, homosexuality  
and was blackmailing him. Hoover was himself a blackmailer. His  
victim included President Kennedy, whose womanising had been  
monitored by the FBI. Yet Hoover died with his reputation intact and  
he is still the only United States civil servant to have been given a  
state funeral. (CeeFax) (710659)
- 9.00 **Play of the Week:** Following Frank's continued complaining to HQ, a  
captain is sent to the 4077th to investigate his allegations (1)  
(860676)

**Prophet: Jonathan Pryce and Lancashire lasses (9.25pm)**

**Prophet: Jonathan Pryce and Lancashire lessees (8.25pm)**

9.25 **Mr Wroe's Virgins.**  
 ● **CHOICE:** Mr Wroe, played by a bewhiskered Jonathan Pryce, is the prophet of a religious sect in 18th-century Lancashire. He was a real person but this is drama, adapted by Jane Rogers from her 1985 novel. Wroe preaches a message from God telling him to bring seven virgins to cook, clean and otherwise look after him. But one of his recruits, Leah (Minnie Driver), turns out not to be a virgin and has a baby to prove it. Moreover, she enters the prophet's house bent on seducing him. It seems, however, that Mr Wroe may not be as innocent as he seems. The story is told in four episodes, from different points of view. This is Laif's version. The ambiguities help to hold the attention, though Pryce's muted performance hardly suggests the prophet's charisma and the production is not helped by its murky photography. (Cueasy) (7135927)  
 9.30 **Newswatch.** Includes the second of two reports from John Simpson in Cuba (192521)  
 11.15 **The Late Show.** Includes discussions on Mr Wroe's Virgins and the re-discovery of 19th century painter William Green (S) (252337)  
 1.55 **Weather** (97726)  
 1.20 **Ant and Dec.** Beckett's play starring Norman Beason, Stephen Rea, Kate Binchy and Charles Durrant (985383), Ends 1.40  
 1.40 **Midnight TV.** Sci. Spec. Topics (52583), Ends at 4.00

(310085) 11.5  
12.15mm Film

**LEONIDAS**  
 Londoness eq: 2:15p-2:45 We/Th in  
 (ance) (28922) 3:20-3:50 The Young  
 (ers) (504949) 6:00 Meridian Tonight  
 (1971) (577) 5:00pm-  
 5:30 Freshies (5792)

**LYNN TEES**  
 Lynn eq: 2:15p-2:45 We/Th You  
 Are Here, 7 (88952) 3:25-3:50 The Young  
 (ers) (504949) 6:00 Lynn Tees Today  
 (1971) (577) 5:00pm-5:30pm  
 EquiZeez (34159) 1:25pm American  
 (Cancers) (33004) 4:15pm Hollywood Report  
 (22856) 4:30pm Wednesday (864549)  
 5:00pm-5:30pm EquiZeez (34159)  
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## DIO 4

35.8m Shipping Forecast 6.00  
News Briefing, incl 5.00  
News 6.15-6.30 News Today  
6.25 Payer for the Day 6.30  
Today, incl 6.30, 7.00 News  
6.50, 8.30 News 6.45  
6.50 News 6.55, 7.55  
Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports  
News 7.45 Thought for the  
Day 8.40 Yesterday in  
Argument and Weather  
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek with  
Libby Purves and birthday  
guest Tim Sebastian  
9.10 News 9.15 News as  
a Treat (FRI only): Spiritual  
Stories and Palmist Reflections, Peter  
Francis compares ancient  
Greek theatre with television  
soap operas  
9.41 Daily Service (LW only)  
9.45 News 9.50 News  
(LW only), by the 14th-century  
mystic Julian of Norwich, Read  
by Hannah Gordon (S21)  
9.30 Women's Hour starts  
to Maggie Stiedt about her role  
as Aunt Vivie in Dennis  
Potter's *Lipstick on Your  
Kisses* (LW only), who  
prefers not to attend their  
children's birth; and discusses  
God, incl 11.15 News  
9.30 *Seven's* *Country Time*:  
A postbag edition (F)  
9.00 You and Yours, with John  
Gardner  
9.50m A Whole New Ball Game:  
A comedy series by Martin  
Davies 12.55 Weather  
9.00 World at One, with Nick  
Clarke  
9.00 *The Archers* (F) 1.55 Shipping  
00 News: The Return of  
the *Blackadder* (LW only)  
© CHOICE: Had Professor  
Morley existed in the real  
world as a fiction, he would  
have caused to be grateful  
to Bert Coultas, who adapted this  
about a writer who is a  
marksmen. In *The Final  
Problem*, which precedes  
*The Archers* on Monday  
Monday goes worldwide to his  
watery grave. But Coultas, in  
his feedback to *The Final  
Problem* has written a  
delightful selection of letters  
(Michael Pennington) showing  
him vocal and defiant to the  
last. He has also penned a  
touching deathbed scene for  
Mrs Waterson, which Coultas  
has admitted to be  
2.47 *How We're* *Waiting*  
Waiting: Having a Smashing  
Time on the M40, David  
Davies ponder the oddities  
for the test time in the series (F)  
3.00 File on 4: Wendy Jones  
reports on the move by  
Gordon from Dipsy to Glasgow  
and what this means for the  
European single market (F)  
3.42 *Encounters*: Christopher  
Cooke meets John Peel  
through the BBC sound  
archives 4.00 News  
4.05 *Kaleidoscope* returns  
with the film reviews and  
reports from the 1993 Berlin  
film festival; looks at the  
evolution of British  
Orchestras' work on *The Turn  
of the Tide* by Peter Maxwell  
Davies; and reviews an  
edition of wood engravings  
by Howard Phipps in Salisbury  
4.45 *Short Story*: The Trouble  
with Park, by R.W. Jones. Read  
by Stephen Briggs  
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast  
5.55 Weather  
5.55 *On the Clock*: News  
5.50 *Countdown*: Ned Sherrin  
charts the fourth test of the  
musical quiz (F)  
7.00 News 7.25 *The Archers*  
7.25 *Face the Facts*: John Walle  
investigates  
7.45 *Medicine Now* (F)  
8.15 *News at Nine* reports on  
American/Soviet relations; and  
examines the history of  
music (F)  
8.45 *The Hospital*: Documentary  
about life in Watnagar  
Hospital, Coventry (7.45) (F)  
9.15 *News at Ten*  
9.45 *The Financial Times*  
Tonight, with Roger White  
9.55 *Weather*  
10.30 *The World Tonight*, with  
Alexander MacLeod  
10.45 *A Book at Bedtime*: Queen  
of the Sandbar, by Alan  
Gardner. Read by Dorothy  
Turner (3/10)  
11.00 *Hindgate*: Black humour from  
the 1950s  
11.30 *Today in Parliament*  
12.00-12.45m News, incl 12.27  
Weather 12.35 Sports 12.45  
As World Service (LW only)

CHANNEL

**6.00 Sesame Street (s)** (9162228)  
**9.45 Spiff and Hercules.** Animation (9050163)  
**7.00 The Big Breakfast** presented by Chris Evans and, this week, Danni Minogue (29705)  
**9.00 You Bet Your Life.** American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (97057)  
**9.30 Schools** (507811)  
**12.00 The Parliament Programme.** Zeinab Badawi with a round-up of news from both Houses (30291)  
**12.30 Sesame Street.** Early learning series. The guests are the Four Tops (56899) **1.30 Lift Off.** Children's entertainment (27786)  
**2.00 Film: Black Fury** (1935, b/w) starring Paul Muni. Drama about an unschooled coal miner who becomes a union leader, elected to fight strike-breakers and corrupt mine-owners. Directed by Michael Curtiz (342927)  
**3.40 The Three Stooges in Sitter Downers** (b/w) (6028845)  
**4.00 The Pulse.** Health care series presented by Emma Freud (s) (540)  
**3.00 Countdown.** Richard Whiteley with another round of the words and numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (1163724)  
**5.05 Wednesday Weeple.** Paula Yates presents a true-life romantic story (128637)  
**5.15 Film: My First Love** (1988) starring Bea Arthur and Richard Kiley. A made-for-television romantic comedy about a widowed driving instructor who renews her romance with the man she first dated 35 years before. Directed by Gilbert Cates (9480490)  
**7.00 Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Shenaz Pakraevan. (Teletext) Weather (402502)  
**7.50 Comment** (456750)  
**8.00 Brookside.** Topical soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (8306)  
**8.30 Food File.** Spenser Unford Christie and footballer Ray Wilkins agree that diet is important for people playing sports. Plus reports on safety in the food industry and what happens to food after it has been swallowed. (Teletext) (s) (7415)



Alleging police brutality, pathologist Dr Ghucken (9.00)



**Alleging police brutality: pathologist Dr Gluckman (9.00pm)**

childhood sweetheart only to discover that his experiences have left him impotent. Directed by Andrei Konchalovsky (20085)  
 1.30am Entertainment UK. Weekly leisure guide (59748)  
 2.30 The Crystal Ball Show. As 2.15pm (41816)  
 3.00 The Little Picture Show. The latest video releases reviewed (r)  
 (12999) 4.00 60 Minutes. American news magazine (14545)  
 5.00 Riviera. French soap (57962)  
 5.30 ITN Mornings News with Tim Neilson (15293) Ends at 6.00

## SATELLITE

[illegible]

## WS

on the hour.

**One Sunrise (54078)** 3.30 Nightline  
11.01 10.30 Fashion TV (24569) 11.30  
11.55 11.30 **News** (54079) 1.55  
11.55 **Evening America** (24544) 3.20 **Parliament**  
(20590) 3.30 **Parliament Live** (53347)  
3.55 **Live at Five** (24873) 7.30 **Fashion TV**  
10.00 10.30 **Nightline** (72182) 11.30 **ABC**  
11.55 11.30 **News** (20591) 1.55  
11.55 **ABC News** (20582) 3.30 **Three Women**  
Dance (50822) 3.30 **ABC News** (52787)  
11.55 **Beyond 2000** (73212) 3.30-5.00 **ABC**

**Biopic of the comic actor (21730827)**  
2.50 **The Laurel World of Sentimental (1903):**  
2.50 **World of Sentimental (1903):**  
3.00 **World of Sentimental (1903):** Story of a  
reporter kidnapped in Beirut (47076)  
3.00 **Almost an Angel** (58327)  
3.00 **Almost an Angel** (58327)  
3.00 **Almost an Angel** (58327) Scale is  
reduced by Kathryn Henricks (99329)  
11.50 **Another 48 Hours (1993):** Nick Nolte  
and Eddie Murphy in partnership (425221)  
12.40am **Friday the 13th Part II (7881):** The

MFSL

[illegible]

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**RADIO 1**  
 3:00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 6:00 Lynn Pearson's Mega Hits 8:00 News 10:00 Top 70  
 on Lamacz's Evening Session 8:00 The Steve Wright Show 10:00 Nighty Night  
 11:00 into the Night 12:30-4:00am Bob Harris' PM on Radio 1

**RADIO 2**  
 PM Stereo 5:00am Sarah Kennedy 6:15  
 Pulse for Thought 7:00 Wake Up to Wogan  
 8:15 Pulse for Thought 9:00 Kern Davis 11:30  
 12:00 The Big Breakfast 1:00am John Peel 7:00am John Lloyd with  
 the 2,000 Eurodisks in Concert: Vienna 1989 from Hamburg  
 8:00am (1/8) 9:00 Bomberly May 6:30 Nigel Ogden: The Originals' Elements 16:16 Come  
 with the Wind 17:00 Martin and Radio Les Dawson 18:30 The Jamisons 12:05am Jazz  
 12:30 Steve Macdonald with Night Ride 3:00-5:00 Alan Lester

**RADIO 3**  
 News and sport on the hour 11:00am  
 12:00pm The World 1:00pm News 5:00

### Salmonella Morning Sickness

[illegible]

## SKY MOVIES GOLD

(1123) 8.00 Freestyle Skiing (776724) 7.00  
 12.00 Nordic Skiing (54486250) 12.00pm  
 and Jumping (18853414) 3.00 Eurogals  
 (22326) 3.00 Tennis (7453) 8.00 Nordic  
 (44078) 7.00 American College  
 of Basketball (36373) 8.00  
 21.00 10.00 Nordic Skiing (52242)  
 3.00-12.00 Eurogals News (70689)

**SCREENSPORT**

10.00pm Basketball (91182) 8.00 Marcus

Moon (3873298) 8.00 Jean (1582569) 7.00  
 The Amished Fast Eddie (371576) 7.00  
 Neighbours (372752) 8.00 Sons and  
 Daughters (331618) 8.00 EastEnders  
 (3513089) 9.00 The B3 (335689) 8.00 One  
 by One (315008) 9.00 Rampage of the  
 Bears (335689) 8.00  
 (1973863) 12.00 Sons and Daughters  
 (3197076) 12.00pm Neighbours (5691250)  
 1.00 EastEnders (3714057) 1.30 The Bill  
 (3690521) 2.00 Father, Dear Father

## THE MOVIE CHANNEL

11.50 PGA Golf Moroccan Open (222211) 5.00  
 12.30 Pen Ten Pin Bowling (77085) 5.00  
 30 Monster Trucks (31902) 2.00 Pro Box  
 00078) 6.00 Ice Racing (33522) 3.00 Cycling  
 Tour of Taiwan (55543) 5.00 Ten Pin Bowling  
 59582) 6.00 Pro Kick (16621) 7.00 Football  
 57578) 6.00 Ice Racing (6547) 6.00 World  
 Cup Soccer: Holland v Turkey (41323)  
 10.00 1.00m Basketball (89144)

10ptm The Buster Keaton  
kopia of the comic actor [2



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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1993

## Resistance crumbles swiftly as Indians complete historic series victory

## English illusions swept away

FROM PETER BALL  
IN BOMBAY

IN THE end, it was not even close. India took less than three hours to claim the seven remaining England wickets and win the third and final Test match by an innings and 15 runs yesterday, in the process removing any hope that England would restore some vestige of pride.

It was England's second successive defeat by an innings. They have lost the series 3-0, their heaviest defeat by India. With some justification, the Bombay papers have christened it a "Brownwash". It could hardly be more comprehensive, England going down twice by an innings and on the other occasion by eight wickets.

They have lost every match of a Test series on only four previous occasions — once at home (five matches to West Indies in 1984), twice in Australia (five matches in 1920-1 and three in 1979-80) and once in the West Indies (five matches in 1985-6).

"We have played very poorly and you can't hide from that," Graham Gooch, the England captain, said yesterday. "We weren't good enough, we didn't play well and I feel responsible for the performance." That sense of responsibility left Gooch considering his own future as captain and player yesterday. "When you've lost 3-0, you've got to think about whether you want to carry on, haven't you?"

Keith Fletcher, the England manager, was quick to insist that Gooch retained his support as captain. "We have got to think about beating Australia and I think Graham is the best man for the job," he said. Gooch, as he is the first to admit, has had a poor series, missing one Test through illness and making little impression on the other two. It did not provide the example the team needed, but there seems little reason to doubt that even if a bottle of red wine and a good night's sleep doesn't lift his depression immediately, by April his energy and optimism will have been fully restored by the thought of an Australian summer.

Gooch can hardly take all the blame for the series as a whole or yesterday's performance, eager as he is to accept responsibility. "India have outplayed us in every department," Fletcher said. That was



Over and out: More delivers the final blow that claimed the wicket of DeFreitas and condemned England to defeat yet again against India in Bombay yesterday

as true yesterday as on the tour in general.

On a pitch that again gave the spinners some encouragement, but had still been good enough for India to get 591, England collapsed spinelessly. Anil Kumble, whose four wickets took his total in the three Tests to 21 to earn him the player-of-the-series award, yesterday looked a more complete bowler than he had at the start of the tour, bowling with more variety and removing Smith to end any realistic hope England had of saving the match.

To add to the frustration, England enjoyed a reasonable start. Smith and Gatting began where they left off on Monday evening, adding 41 as both reached their fifties in a deceptively trouble-free first hour.

The drinks' break signalled the end of England's breathing space, however, as Chauhan replaced Kumble and made the breakthrough in his second over. Gatting was drawn forward and beaten through the air and, although More initially fumbled the chance as the off-break turned sharply, he recovered to break the wicket as Gatting recovered his ground.

If that tilted the balance slightly, it swung decisively seven overs later as Kumble returned in place of Raju and removed Smith in his first over with a leg-break that pitched on middle stump and did just enough to beat the bat and hit off stump. Blakey fell first ball, playing all round Kumble's staple top-spinner, and although Lewis prevented the

hat-trick, the end was in sight. Although Hick and Lewis reached the interval unscathed, any match-saving heroics were beyond them. Lewis got a brace that bounced off a length and turned to take the shoulder of his bat or a glove. Hick survived longer, but then received one of the game's few questionable decisions, given out caught off bat and paid at short-leg.

That denied him a deserved 50, but the decision probably only brought forward the inevitable. Hick received some consolation, winning the man-of-the-match award for his first innings' efforts — a decision Kumble and Kumble might think the most questionable of all in an excellently adjudicated match.

Simon Barnes, page 36

## England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings 347 (G A Hick 178)

## Second Innings

	6s	4s	Min Balls
G A Gooch b Prabhakar	8	-	33
1st round slower ball			
A J Stewart b Prabhakar	10	-	21
Beaten by inswinger			
M A Atherton c More b Prabhakar	11	-	29
Picked outwinger to wicketkeeper			
R A Smith b Kumble	62	-	120
Played around slower ball			
M W Gatting c More b Chauhan	61	-	9
Stepped out to drive			
G A Hick c Amre b Kumble	47	-	8
Nudge to short leg			
R J Blakey b Kumble	0	-	1
Chopped down pitch			
C C Lewis c More b Raju	3	-	23
Edged sharply-turning ball			
J E Embury c Tendulkar b Kumble	1	-	21
Edged low catch to gully			
P A J DeFreitas c More b Raju	12	-	1
Chopped down pitch			
P C R Tufnell not out	2	-	12
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 1, nb 1)	12		
Total (310 min, 82.5 overs)	229		

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17 (Gooch 6), 2-28 (Atherton 7), 3-34 (Smith 1), 4-155 (Smith 54), 5-181 (Hick 17), 6-181 (Hick 17), 7-206 (Hick 39), 8-214 (Embrey 0), 9-215 (DeFreitas 0).

BOWLING: Kapil Dev 7-1-21-0 (w 1) (one spell); Prabhakar 11-4-28-3 (nb 1) (8-2-27-3, 3-2-1-0); Raju 26-5-7-80-2 (8-4-24-0, 2-0-2-0, 10-1-28-0, 6-5-2-16-2); Kumble 28-5-70-4 (5-3-10-0, 8-3-27-0, 9-3-24-0); Chauhan 12-5-32-1 (5-3-8-0, 7-2-24-1).

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: Overnight 108-3 (39 overs); Smith 39, Gatting 51, 150; 210 min, 82.2 overs. Lunch 199, 6 in 70 overs (Hick 31, Lewis 3), 200: 238 min, 71.2 overs. Innings closed 12.40pm.

INDIA: First Innings 591 (V G Karribi 224, N S Sidhu 79, S R Tendulkar 78, P K Amre 57; P C R Tufnell 4-142).

Umpires: P D Reporter and S Venkateswaraiah.

Men of the match: G A Hick.

Men of the series: A Kumble.

Result: India won by an innings and 15 runs.

PREVIOUS RESULTS: First Test (in Calcutta): India won by eight wickets. Second Test (in Madras): India won by an innings and 22 runs.

## Dexter ready to face board enquiry

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TED Dexter last night defended his position as chairman of England's selectors and confirmed his support for Graham Gooch to lead the side against Australia this summer.

"It's up to the people who appointed me in the first place," Dexter said. "I've examined my conscience and I can't see that I've been lacking in diligence, but if they want to move me on, that's up to them."

The series in India is sure to be discussed by Dexter's employer, the Test and County Cricket Board, at its next meeting on March 9 and 10. Dexter, who still has 12 months of his contract to run, is confident he can answer any questions that might be thrown at him.

He will also insist that Gooch should continue as captain. "Graham would be the absolute natural choice for next summer as far as I'm concerned."

Asked whether a different tour party would have produced better results, Dexter said: "We shall never know the answer to that. But in this series we have been beaten not by a little but by a country mile. That suggests we could have named another 15 or 18 players and it wouldn't have made any difference."

"Everyone has tried their best, but the results in the Tests have been very disappointing. Man for man, in their conditions, India were better than us."

"What we must remember is that just a few weeks ago India came back from South Africa a beaten side and with all their supporters calling for changes. They got back to winning ways in their own country and we must do the same against Australia this summer."

□ England have lost 16 of their 38 matches — or 42.1 per cent — since Dexter became chairman of selectors in March 1989, figures that are worse than any other Test-playing country over the same period.

	P	W	L	T	NW
England	38	8	19	16	42.1
New Zealand	22	3	11	8	36.4
India	22	4	14	4	36.4
South Africa	22	1	17	0	36.4
West Indies	3	0	2	1	33.3
Australia	27	13	8	6	22.2
Pakistan	22	8	11	3	36.4

## Leading questions shadow Gooch's future



Fletcher: mentor

THESE early weeks of 1993 have been an embarrassment for the England team and its captain, Graham Gooch has never been a man for easy excuses. "As captain, I feel very responsible," he said yesterday. "If things go well, you take the credit, so when they go wrong, you have to take responsibility."

He felt the same way two years ago, when the last Ashes campaign ended in defeat, dismay and disarray. This time, the burden may hang heavier on those sloping shoulders. Gooch's name is inseparable from selections that were derided at the time and have been shown to be misguided. His policies have failed him and so has his form.

There is a peculiarly British relish for this sort of debate. Every bar and office in the country will have been filled with people proclaiming themselves ashamed of the situation, yet secretly wallowing in it. Spurred by headlines such as "Get out, Gooch must quit now", many will have been calling the captain to account.

## Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, on England's captaincy options in the wake of the Test debacle in Bombay

Gooch will not argue. He knows his detractors have a point. But, as with other trigger reactions, the calls to sack all the selectors (supported by 93 per cent of voters in a Teletext poll) or to restore David Gower as captain (but from 33-1 to 10-1 by bookmakers yesterday), ditching Gooch would cause more problems than it would solve.

Gooch's planning, and that of the England committee, has revolved around ending his captaincy career against Australia this summer. It is his dearest wish to regain the Ashes and, as he approaches his fortieth birthday, this will be his last chance. He may think he has surrendered that chance. Good sense, and good counsel, should convince him otherwise.

Probably, he did make one too many, agreeing to go for the laudable but unconvincing reason that his

mentor, Keith Fletcher, was to be the manager. Gooch found India an ordeal on his last visit, 11 years ago, and he has not come to terms with it any more successfully this time. How preoccupied he has been by the breakdown of his marriage, only he will know.

Yet if not Gooch, then who? It is a sad fact that there was no other pressing contender to do the job when the touring side was chosen and that such candidates as exist have done their prospects no good at all in recent weeks.

Apart from Gower, whose previous tenure was brief and painful, only three names can seriously be proposed. Of these, Mike Gatting is still associated with the indispositions of his time as leader and his sulking departure for South Africa when it ended, while the credentials of Michael

Atherton and Alec Stewart bear little scrutiny.

Atherton is not even entrusted with the captaincy of Lancashire, much as he would like it, and Stewart's maturity has once again been called into question on this tour by his theatrical response to dismissals.

As arranged, Stewart is to take over the side for the Sri Lankan leg of the tour, which Gooch is missing, but it would be doing him, and the team, a favour to resolve his identity as an opening batsman or wicketkeeper, or both, before entrusting him with additional duties.

India has provided an eye-opening few weeks. England have been utterly unable to cope with a home side playing to strengths it had for too long forgotten it possessed. The gulf between the teams has been so vast that the losing captain must, properly, consider his position. But it remains, at least until the end of the summer, a position for which he is the best qualified.

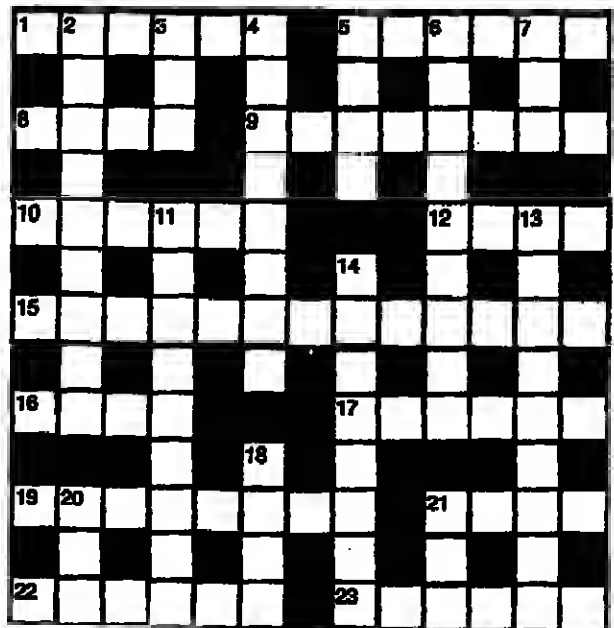
- ACROSS
- Reached maximum (6)
  - Go back (6)
  - Strong line (4)
  - Oatmeal dish (8)
  - Stray (6)
  - Priest fur (4)
  - Custer's last stand (6,7)
  - Antlered animal (4)
  - Snatch for ransom (6)
  - Crime story (8)
  - Lower leg front (4)
  - Assented (6)
  - Two-storey apartment (6)

- DOWN
- Calling up memories (9)
  - Young goat (3)
  - Left (8)
  - Uncommon (4)
  - Came out best (9)
  - Drilling installation (3)
  - Settle conclusively (9)
  - Make standard (9)
  - Fiddled (8)
  - Barth lump (4)
  - Ugly crane (3)
  - Concession (3)

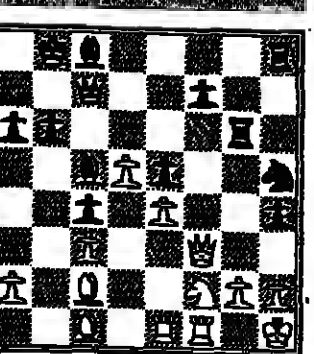
## SOLUTIONS TO NO 3029

- ACROSS: 1 Plastic bottle 8 Runba 9 Unideal 10 Per 11 Lunge 12 Treason 14 Platen 16 Celtic 20 Stamina 23 Bacon 24 Via 25 Agonise 26 Sabre 27 Emergency exit
- DOWN: 1 Purple passage 2 Ammonia 3 Trapeze 4 Courts 5 Unile 6 Leers 7 Talent contest 13 All 15 Turn 17 Embassy 18 Tuckbox 19 Cavern 21 Alone 22 Icing

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World champion Gary Kasparov has always cited the great champion Alexander Alekhine as his chess hero. Kasparov has said that Alekhine's combination "came like a bolt of lightning from a clear sky". This position is from the game Bogolyubov - Alekhine, Wiesbaden 1929. How did black come crashing through on the kingside? (Raymond Keene)



Solution on page 36.

## By PHILIP HOWARD

- TRAHENT
- An internal tangent
  - A contracting party
  - Lubriciously enticing, as a Ciro
- TOONIE
- A mad
  - A sheepdog
  - A choir-master

- EXUMBRELLA
- Railway lost property
  - Bit of a jelly-fish
  - Former scrubland
- MERRY WIDOW
- A type of champagne
  - A broad-brimmed hat
  - A typographical fault

Answers on page 36